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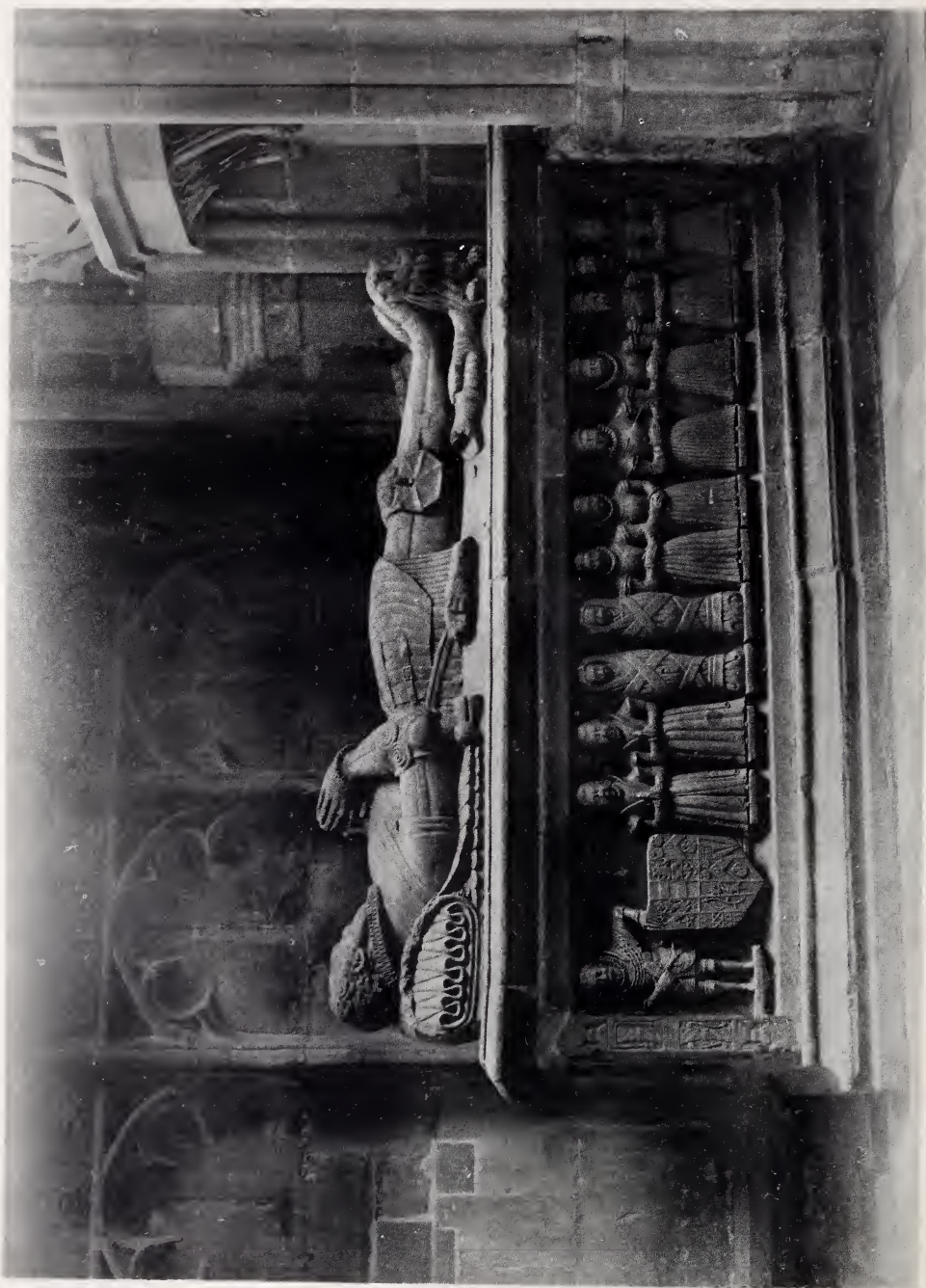
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OF

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EDITED BY

The William Salt Archaeological Society.

1910.

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- (a) Abstracts of the Monastic Chartularies, and of Ancient Family Deeds, with the names of witnesses and fac-similes of seals; Genealogies of Nobility and Gentry (accompanied by proofs), Heraldic Visitations, and other papers touching the general history and descent of properties and families.
- (b) Printing and editing of the Public Records relating to the County, including the Exchequer or Pipe Rolls, the Assize Rolls, Fine Rolls, Inquisitions, Perambulations of Forests, Subsidy Rolls, and Assessments, &c., &c.
- (c) History of Parishes and of Manors, and of Manorial Customs and Tenures, illustrated by Copies of, or reference to, original grants.
- (d) Church Notes hitherto unpublished, such as Ecclesiastical Surveys, Extracts from Episcopal and Parish Registers, Copies of Epitaphs, and Description of Monuments and Ecclesiastical Buildings, Abstracts or Copies of Wills, &c.
- (e) Notices of British and Roman Remains, and Roads and Buildings, and the Antiquities generally of the District.
- (f) Autograph Letters and other Documents relating to the Civil War.
- (g) Notices of distinguished Worthies, Broad-sides, Election Squibs, &c.
- (h) Correspondence, in which enquiries may be made and answered, on any of the above subjects, and miscellaneous information, including corrections of errors.

III.—The general affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Council of ten, of whom five shall be trustees of the William Salt Library, and nominated by them, from time to time, and five shall be elected at an Annual Meeting of the Subscribers. The Council shall be empowered to delegate, if they see fit, the selection of the papers to be printed to an Editorial Committee. Of the Council, three shall be a quorum, and in case of equality of votes, their Chairman shall have a casting vote.

IV.—The Officers of the Society shall be a Treasurer, a Secretary, and an Auditor, to be appointed by the Council. These Offices shall be honorary, but the Council shall have power to appoint an Assistant Secretary to be paid at the discretion of the Council, as the nature of his duties may warrant.

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# The William Salt Archaeological Society.

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SPECIAL MEETING, APRIL 13TH, 1909.

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A SPECIAL meeting of the Society was held at the William Salt Library on April 13th, 1909, Sir Henry Wiggin, Bart., in the Chair, and there were present:—Rev. E. R. O. Bridgeman, Rev. S. W. Hutchinson, Rev. D. S. Murray, Rev. F. P. Parker, Colonel Mort, Messrs. J. Wilcox Edge, W. R. Holland, A. Huntbach, J. H. Mitchell, W. C. T. Mynors, J. C. Wedgwood, M.P., and J. W. Bradley, Assistant Secretary.

Sir Henry Wiggin referred to the irreparable loss the Society had suffered by the death of their Hon. Secretary, Major-General the Hon. George Wrottesley, which had made the calling of this meeting necessary. Mr. Parker moved and Mr. Wedgwood seconded a vote of condolence from the Society to Mrs. Wrottesley, and that, to show further their appreciation of his extraordinary services and abilities, they should establish a fund to be devoted to putting up a suitable Memorial to the General, either at Tettenhall, in the Wrottesley vault in the church there, or at Lichfield, as his family should prefer. This was carried all standing, and a Committee, consisting of Sir Henry Wiggin, Bart., the Dean of Rochester, Messrs. Parker, Bridgeman, and Wedgwood, was appointed to collect subscriptions and make all necessary arrangements.

Mr. Parker then proposed and Mr. Wilcox Edge seconded the appointment of Mr. Wedgwood as Honorary Secretary. This was carried unanimously, and after the usual votes of thanks the meeting terminated.



## GENERAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 27TH, 1909.

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THE Thirty-first Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the William Salt Library, Stafford, on September 27th, 1909. Mr. Josiah C. Wedgwood, M.P. (Hon. Sec.), was in the Chair, and there were present:—Rev. E. R. O. Bridgeman, Rev. S. Hutchinson, Rev. F. G. Inge, Rev. F. P. Parker, Rev. R. A. Wilson, Captain G. Cavenagh-Mainwaring; Messrs. P. W. L. Adams, E. Collett, W. H. Duignan, F. A. Homer, W. N. Landor, and J. W. Bradley, Assistant Secretary. Letters of apology for absence were read from Lord Wrottesley, Colonel the Hon. F. C. Bridgeman, Rev. W. Beresford, and Rev. Charles Swynnerton.

The Assistant Secretary's Report was read as follows:—

At the last Annual Meeting the number of members was 160. During the past year,

- (1) The following have withdrawn from Membership: Mr. Cecil Clay, Mr. J. F. T. Royds, and Mr. Geo. Derry; the last named has, however, presented his back volumes to the Fenton Public Library on condition that they shall take his place as member and subscriber.
- (2) The Society has lost by death Lord Burton, the Hon. Fred Strutt, the Rev. Samuel Lees, Mr. J. Griffith, and Mr. R. Hovenden, and, most serious loss of all, Major-General the Hon. George Wrottesley, who has been the Society's Honorary Secretary for the last thirty years.
- (3) New members have joined as follows:—the Society of Antiquaries of London, the College of Arms, Fenton Public Library, the Right Hon. Lewis Harcourt, P.C., Mr. H. B. Greene, Wolstanton, Dr. C. H. Hopwood, Fenton, and Mr. T. W. Twyford, D.L., of Whitmore Hall.
- (4) The Society therefore now numbers 158 members.
- (5) As regards finance, only two ordinary subscriptions remain unpaid, and these are not likely to be long neglected. Two of the Bishops Register (Special) Subscriptions remain unpaid. Thus only £3 3s. is outstanding.

J. W. BRADLEY,  
*Assistant Secretary.*

The Report of the Editorial Committee was then read as follows:—

The Editorial Committee submit a report of their proceedings during the past year, proposals for the coming year, and Balance Sheet of Receipts and Expenditure. They regret that the Balance Sheet, showing a balance in hand of £16 5s., has not yet been audited.

Volume XII (New Series), containing the first part of Chetwynd's *History of the Hundred of Pirehill*, was issued to subscribers in May, and the Rev. F. P. Parker expects to be able to put the second portion in hand shortly. This will consist principally of the Bishops great Manor of Eccleshall, and will form the main portion of the next Volume. Mr. W. N. Landor's *History of the Wolseley Family* and the usual Reviews will complete the next Volume, XIII (New Series).<sup>1</sup>

For many years Mr. W. F. Carter has had in hand for publication by the Society extensive *Notes on Staffordshire Visitation Families*. The Society has expended £10 in obtaining Will Abstracts for Mr. Carter's work, and the Committee recommend that a commencement should be made with the publication of this work in Volume XIV.<sup>2</sup> A letter has been received from Mr. Carter, explaining what steps he is taking to preserve the MSS. for the Society in any case. The letter will be filed with the Minutes.

With regard to a large number of Walsall Rentals and Bailiff's Accounts of the fifteenth century, an offer had been made to copy some of them for the Society, and the Committee propose to ask to have some sample Rolls copied and sent for future publication.

Mr. P. W. L. Adams has found at Keele Hall the Court Rolls of the old Manor Courts of Tunstall, and also those of Keele, dating from 1326. If Mr. Sneyd's permission can be obtained, the Committee suggest that the Tunstall Rolls be copied and printed. Being of interest specially to one locality, the Potteries, and in view of the fact that they have already printed extensively from the Court Rolls of Alrewas, the Committee, however, do not think that these Rolls should be printed in full, at any rate for the present, unless some portion of the cost is borne by those specially interested, outside the Society's ordinary funds.

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Parker has found himself unable to complete the editing of the second part of Chetwynd's "History" in time for publication in this volume, and the articles now printed have been substituted.—(HON. SEC.)

<sup>2</sup> The first instalment now appears in this volume for 1910.

As it has been found difficult to get new members to join on account of the scarcity and high price of back volumes of the *Staffordshire Historical Collections*, the Committee recommend that, on the completion of Chetwynd's *History of the Hundred of Pirehill*, future volumes be numbered on the cover with the year date instead of the volume number, so that any set of volumes will not appear incomplete.

In conclusion the Committee desire to put on record their sense of the forethought shown by the late Honorary Secretary, and of the admirable order in which everything was handed over—a fact which has very considerably helped to tide over the break in the life of the Society; and they ask the Society to make the Hon. Mrs. Wrottesley their first Honorary Life Member in admiration of and gratitude for her husband's services, not only to this Society, but to all historical research.

The Chairman submitted the Committee's Report for discussion, and Mr. Duignan kindly promised to look through the copies of the *Walsall Rentals*, etc., and recommend on their publication.

With respect to the Tunstall Court Rolls the Chairman said they dealt with a period in the history of the Potteries of which they had no records, and they were therefore of special value for the knowledge of the potting industry, as well as of personal value to the many master potters whose family history was involved. Mr. Adams said the Rolls extended from 1326 to the time of George I., and numbered some eighty or ninety. The Rev. E. R. O. Bridgeman moved that the Society apply to Mr. Sneyd for permission to view the Rolls, and Mr. Landor kindly undertook to go through them with Mr. Adams. This was agreed to.

On the motion of Capt. Mainwaring, seconded by Mr. Adams, the Report of the Committee was then adopted.

Correspondence was read from the Public Library of Sydney, and it was agreed to make special terms for the supply of back volumes to such Libraries as these, in order to get at least one set of the Society's publications into all the English Colonies. Regarding an application from the North Staffs Field Club for a free issue of the Society's publications in return for their annual publications, it was resolved that, as the exchange was one that benefited the William Salt Library and not directly the Society, the Society should intimate to the Library Trustees their willingness to supply the annual volume to the Field Club, if the Library would meet half the cost, *i.e.*, 10s. 6d.

The Chairman referred to the fact that the support the Society received came more and more from outside the County, from Libraries, learned societies and historical students, and that its position in the world of letters merited a far larger support from those within the county, who should be specially interested. He pointed out that the detailed work to be found in their thirty-eight volumes had been done for no other county, and had an unique value both for history and sociology. He suggested that they should continue the publication at some future time of the Final Concords of Edward I. and II., which had been transcribed for Mr. Salt and were in MS. in the Library, but had never been published, as had those both before and after those reigns. Referring to the death of Major-General Wrottesley, he said that he had left ready for publication histories of the families of Lane and Philips; and added that the loss of his valuable advice made it very important that everything the Society published should be as accurate as possible. He hoped therefore that members who had special knowledge relating to any family or parish would carefully study what was published, and send in any corrections or additions to be printed in the succeeding volume.

The Rev. F. Parker also states that some of the later Fines of James I. and Charles I. were also left ready for publication by the General.

On the motion of Mr. Landor, seconded by Mr. Adams, it was resolved to circularise each subscriber to the Society, with a view to expedite the publication of the material already available, by appealing to them to do their best to obtain additional subscribers by personal application. It was urged that with the circular should be sent a list of the matter ready for printing. The resolution was then carried, and after the usual vote of thanks the meeting terminated.



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THE COURT OF THE STAR  
CHAMBER.

HEN. VIII. AND EDW. VI.

*(Continued from Vol. X, New Series.)*





# THE COURT OF THE STAR CHAMBER.

STAR CHAMBER PROCEEDINGS (STAFFORD).

HENRY VIII., VOL. XV, FOL. 50 TO BUNDLE XXX, No. 18  
AND EDW. VI., BUNDLE III, No. 25.

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FLAKETT *v.* BERESFORD.

Vol. XV, fol. 99-107.

*The answer of Adam Basford*<sup>1</sup> *to the bill of complaint of John Flakett.*

The said Adam Basford saith that the said bill of complaint is uncertain, etc. The said Adam saith that he at the request of Humfrey Walker desired the same Robert Jacson, Richard Bayle, and Christopher Launte, his neighbours, to depose before the Justice or any other men before whom the said Robert, Richard, and Christopher Launte at any time should be called, that they should say and declare "the truth that they knewe of the mordour and deth of Henry Flakett, and nott to lett to shew the truth for faver, dreded ne mede, but only as they knew the truth in that behalf. Without that the seid Robert Jacson, Christofer Launte and Richard Bayle by the procurment and senyester labour of the seid Adame Basford or eny other his adherentes, kynsmen or frendes to the knowlege of the seid Adame Basford or thorow faver, promyse or grete rewarde not dredyng all myghty God, at the request of the seid Adame Basford contrary to their first othes, informacion and evidence that they gave be fore the seid coroner and enquest that was then sworne be fore hym didd escues the seid Richard Bowman that he shuld nott be giltye of the seid mordour in maner and fourme as in the seid bill is alleged or that the seid Christofer Launte and Richard Bayle at the special labour, instance and desier of the seid Adame Basford, George Meuerell and Robert Hassill came be fore the Kynges

<sup>1</sup> Adam Beresford, see p. 8.

Justice at Westminster and then and their in lyke maner contrary to their first othes, informacion and evidence by theym gevyn be fore the seid coroner untruly informed the seid jure sworne be fore the seid Justice uppon the triall of the seid Humfrey Walker that the seid Humfrey was nott giltye of the seid mordour, And without that the seid Humfrey Walker and Richard Bowman or eny of theym are dayly supported, mayntened and borne by the seid Adame Basford and other his kynsmen to his knowlege in such wyse that the seid Riott and mordour in those parties cane nott be founde ne ponysshed according to the good order of the Kynges lawes," etc. All which matters the said Adam is ready to aver as this Court will award, and prayeth to be dismissed out of this Court with his reasonable costs.

*Interrogatories to be administered for the part of John Flaket to Robert Jakson, Christopher Lont, and Richard Bayly.*

1. Whether these deponents or any of them were at *Stansop*, co. Stafford, on the ground belonging to Henry Flaket, the 20th of September, 7 Henry VIII. [1515], at such time as Richard Bowman carried compost or dung off the said land.

Item whether the said Richard Bowman had any oxen in his wain of the said Walker's at the same time.

2. Whether Richard Bowman was then tenant or servant to Humfrey Walker.

3. Whether the said deponents were present when the said Henry Flakett came to Bowman and desired the said Bowman to cease the carriage of the said compost.

4. Whether Bowman said that his master, Humfrey Walker, had commanded him to carry it, and that he would do so or else die therefor, and what other words the said Bowman then spake, and what weapons he had.

5. Whether William Wodward, servant to Walker, then came to them, and what weapon he had, and what was his demeanour.

6. Whether soon after the coming of the said Wodward the said Walker came thither, and weapon he had.

7. Whether Walker came thither on horseback, with a hawk on his hand, and as soon as he came "lyghted of his seid hors and cast of his hawke of his hand, and then toke a staff from Christofer Lont and seid to the seid Henry Flakett 'thou churle thou woldest ouer ley my servauntes and thou shalt have strokes therefore,'" and what was his further demeanour.

8. Whether Flaket was then of the age of seventy-six years and almost blind.

9. Whether Walker, Wodward and Bowman did then strike Henry Flaket.

10. If any of them then struck John Flaket.

11. Whether Isabell Bakshawe, wife to Robert Bakshawe, then knelt on her knee with a child in her arms and required Walker to save the life of Henry Flaket.

12. Whether Walker and Wodward immediately after the said affray went to Alsfield with their staves bloody, and there drank at an alehouse, making their boast that they had "canvassed a carle," and said that "he shuld lyck hym hole."

13. Whether the said Henry died of the strokes that he had at the said fray.

14. Whether the dagger that he was stricken with was Humfrey Walker's.

15. Whether the said deponents were sworn before John Ireton, coroner of the county of Derby, to give evidence to the jury, and what evidence they gave, and whether Walker, Wodward, and Bowman upon such evidence as they then gave were indicted for the death of the said Henry.

16. Whether these deponents, at Derby, before the Justices of Assize, upon the trial of Bowman, gave any evidence to the jury, and what evidence they gave, and whether Bowman by reason of their evidence was acquitted.

17. At whose instance came they to Derby to be witnesses, and what reward had they.

18. Whether Christopher Lont and Richard Baily in the term of Easter last came before the King's Justices at Westminster and there upon the trial of Walker gave evidence to that jury, and what evidence they gave then.

19. At whose desire they came to Westminster, and what they had for their labour or were promised.

20. What persons have been the labourers for the said Walker, Bowman, and Wodward.

Robert Jakson of Stanneshop, co. Stafford, labourer, of the age of twenty-six years, sworne 22nd June, 8 Henry VIII. [1516], upon interrogatories administered by John Flaket saith :

1. He knows not whether the ground belongs to Henry Flaket or not.

2. Bowman was tenant to Humfrey Walker.

3 and 4. He saw Henry Flaket at the ground where the dung lay. Who said to Bowman "who bade the cary away any dong from hens." And he said, his master, Humfrey Walkør. Then Flaket desired Bowman to go to his master and desire him "to put it in two of their neighbours" ere any more were carried from thence, and he would be content to be ordered by them. Who denied so to do, and said the said Henry, "goo thowe chorle if thowe will for I will not." For he said his master had bought it. Then said Flaket, "there was noo man had any auctorite to sell but he." And further this deponent saith that Bowman had a dung fork and a plain staff with a pike on the end of it.

5. Soon after William Woodward came thither having a bill in his hands and asked this deponent and others there being what business was there; and then this deponent answered there was no harm done, "nor noon shuld be doon if he wold ordre hym selfe like a wise man and make noo besynes." Then he swore by God's wounds, "I will make the best as long as they will be ruled."

6 and 7. Soon after the coming of Woodward there came Humfrey Walker on horseback having a hawk on his hand and a dagger by his side, and as soon as he came thither he "lighted of his horse and cast of his hawk and toke by violence a staff from Cristofer Lonte, and then spake many wordes there," but what they were this deponent perfectly remembers not; and then suddenly the affray began, but who struck the first stroke this deponent cannot tell.

8. Henry Flaket was above the age of seventy years, and might not well see, and had no weapons but a piked staff.

9. He cannot tell whether they or any of them struck Flaket or no.

10. He saw the said Walker strike the said John Flaket to the ground.

15. He was sworn before John Ireton, coroner of Derby, and such evidence as is specified in the aforesaid depositions he gave to the Jury, and shortly after Walker, Woodward and Bowman were indicted, but whether it was by reason of the said evidence or not, he cannot tell.

16. He said that he, Christopher Lont, and others were at Derby before the Justices of Assize there upon the trial of the said Bowman, to give evidence against the said Bowman, and so the said Christopher began to show the whole circumstance of the affray to the jury. And then the Justices said that needed not, but thereupon asked them whether they saw Bowman strike Flaket or no, and they said "nay." Then they asked them how many bloody wounds Flaket had, and they said they saw but two, one on the head and the other on the finger.

17. Humfrey Walker and Robert Haselles spoke to this deponent and desired him, and "Aden" Basford sent his son and George Meverell, his servant, to the said deponent to come to Derby to testify the truth in this behalf, but as for money or rewards, he had none

[*Another deponent.*]

9. He saw Wodward strike Flaket with a bill on the head and neck.

10. He heard reported that Humfrey Walker felled the said John Flaket.

Richard Bailly of Sansop of the age of twenty-eight years, sworn and examined.

1. He saith that he was not there till the affray was begun.

10. He supposeth in his conscience that Humfrey Walker struck John Flaket to the ground, for at the time John Flaket was felled this deponent came thither to help to rid the affray.

Christofer Lonte of Stansop of the age of fifty-six years, sworn and examined.

3 and 4. He sawe Henry Flaket come to the ground where the dung lay. Who asked Bowman, "who bade the cary away any dong from hens"; and he said his master. Then said Flaket, "nother thy master nor thowe shall have any here." Then said Bowman his master bade him carry it. Then Flaket bade him go to his master and desire him to put it in two of their neighbours. Then said Bowman, "goo youre selfe and you will, for I will not." And thereupon they "multiplied" words.

Robert Hasels of the age of sixty years, examined.

1. He was at Bewdley about that time.

2. He saith that his going thither was to know of William Woodewarde, then "sainctuarie man" there for the murder of Henry Flakett, father to John Flakett, what he had confessed to the same John Flakett, John Cokayn, gentleman, and the same Wodewarde's father concerning the said murder. Which John Flakett, John Cokayne, and old Wodewarde, as it was reported in the county, had been there afore with the same Wodeward to cause him to accuse Humfrey Walker of the said murder. And this was all the business that this deponent had there. And he saith that he went thither at the desire of Humfrey Walker, Nicholas Hethcotte, Richard Hethcotte, and the priest of Langnor, whose name he knoweth not. The which Nicholas Hethcotte being uncle to the wife of the same Wodeward, and "thother," at the

request of Humfrey Walker were content that this deponent in their name should make a letter to Philip of Hethcotte, also uncle to the said Wodewarde's wife, that he should go with this deponent to Bewdley and to advertise the same Woodewarde to be a true man in his words, and not accuse those who were not faulty, for it was showed them that he had accused Humfrey Walker, "which should come to his rebuke."

8. He gave her 16*l.* of his own mind only, and for alms, forasmuch as she was his kinswoman and diseased, and willed her to advertise her husband to be a true man in his saying.

9. He saith that Adam Beresforde paid for his costs when he rode thither with him to have spoken with William Woodewarde, and with another "sancturie man" that owed him money.

11. Has laboured for Walker and Bowman at the desire of the same Walker and Bowman as well to the sheriff of Derbyshire as to the sheriff of Staffordshire that he might have indifferent trial.

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PRIOR OF CANWELL *v.* MEN OF DRAYTON.

Bundle 18, No. 165.

*To the King our Sovereign Lord.*

[1517] Complains, William, Prior of the Monastery of Giles of Canwell, co. Stafford, that whereas your said "besecher," 15th September in the 9th year of your reign sent one Thomas Bradshawe from the said monastery to a certain piece of meadow belonging to the said monastery, in *Drayton Basset*, in the said county to fetch the hay there growing, which Thomas Bradshawe took a wain and oxen of your said orator and "lade" the said wain with the hay, and as they were returning one Giles Nele, yeoman, Richard Bland, yeoman, Richard Adcokes, husbandman, Thomas Bowdell, husbandman, John Roston, labourer, Thomas Draper, Richard Thorpe, tailor, Robert Smert, husbandman, and Thomas Smert, and Elizabeth, his wife, with other riotous and evil disposed persons to the number of fourteen and above by the commandment of John Wystowe, Robert Goulson, John Jakes, and "Alys" Wystowe, with force and arms, that is to say, with bows, bills, "pycheforkes," staves, and knives, made assault upon the said servants of your said orator, and then and there took the said Thomas Bradshawe "and tare his clothis from his bake and pulled his shois of from his fete and caste hym in a dyche and there with force hylde hym downe with their pycheforkes and so cruelly entreted hym that the

seid Thomas Bradshawe by a grete season after by reason of such feare as he was put in and by reason of such strokes as he there hadd was in grete daunger of lyff." And while the said persons were keeping the said Bradshawe in the diche the residue of the said riotous persons drove away the oxen with the wain and hay, so that your orator lost his said hay. And the said Giles Nele took a load of hay of your said orator's, being in the King's highway, and cast the same abroad in the highway, so that the same hay was destroyed, and also carried away a load of barley of your orator's from Drayton Bassett. And afterwards the said Thomas being in fear of his life came before Master Anthony Fytzherber, Justice of the Peace, and required that the said persons might be bounden to the peace. Whereupon the same Justice granted a warrant to arrest the said rioters. And when the said rioters had knowledge that there was a warrant out to arrest them, they assembled newly in riotous wise and with such number that the said Thomas Bradshawe "cowde gett none of the Shrevys offycers that durst arest eny of the seid ryotours." Whereupon your orator the 24th day of September next came to the said Master Fytzherber and required of him a warrant to arrest the said rioters to find surety to keep the peace. Which warrant the said Master Fytzherber granted. And also your orator purchased a replevin to have again such goods as the said riotous persons had wrongfully taken. Which warrant your orator delivered to one Thomas Bowdell, being the King's officer, to have served them. And the said riotous persons, perceiving the said replevin and warrant, newly assembled themselves in riotous wise and made "rescove" against the said Thomas Bowdell so that he durst not for danger of his life serve the said warrant, and saith openly "that whoo so ever wold be so bolde to serve eny replevyn or warrant there shuld renne uppon a pycheforke. And allso cryed out uppon your seid oratour with lowd voyce in maner of an out crye, and some badd take hym and some badd kyll hym, so that your seid orator was fayne to flee his wey on his horsebake after the moste hasty maner he cowde toward his owne house, and the seid ryotours pursued on fote soo fast your seid oratour to have kyllled hym that they were almoste as soon at the house of your seid oratour as he cowde be uppon his horsebacke, and then they made there boste openly that if they myght have taken your seid oratour he shuld never have had tyme to complayne nother to Kyng nor to Cardinall." Please your grace to direct your letters under your privy seal to the said John Wystowe, etc., to appear in your Star Chamber at the octaves of St. Hillary next to answer to the premises, and that such punishment may be "shewed" upon the offenders that other evil disposed persons may be put in fear

likewise to offend, and that your orator may be recompensed for his wrongs sustained in this behalf.

[Endorsed.] Let the parties be called before the King and his Council at Westminster on the morrow of the Purification next under pain of £100 each.

By command of the Lord Cardinal of Canterbury, 20th December.

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GRESLEY *v.* GRESLEY.

Bundle 17, No. 80.

*To the Kyng your Sovereign Lorde.*

[1518] “Lamentably complayning” showeth unto your highness your true and faithful subject George Greseley,<sup>1</sup> and Mary Greseley, his sister, son and daughter to Dame Anne Greseley, widow, late deceased. Whereas the said Dame Anne was possessed of certain household stuff and other goods as of her own proper goods to the value of £25 or better, as by writing more plainly appears, and lying on her death bed, by her last will and testament made the said George and Mary her executors. So it is, gracious sovereign, that Sir William Greseley, knight, eldest brother to your said subjects, perceiving the will of the said Dame Anne, his mother, and perceiving the likelihood of death in her, unkindly, a little before her decease, caused Christopher Colwhich, of Colton, co. Stafford, gentleman, John Bradbery, Thomas Jeffre, of Colton, husbandman, Anthony Woode, of Rugeley, co. Stafford, yeoman, Ralph Kendall, Richard Blurton, William Turner, Robert Basforde, John Darnelhed, Henry Savyll, William Wolff, William Haydoke, Robert Badeley, Robert Felkyn, Richard Dun, John Alyn, Richard Darnelhed, Thomas Thorp, John Wetton, Robert Taylour, Richard Bayley, Richard Wood, Richard Stanlow, William Bye, John a Lee, Richard Geffre, Henry Basford, Richard Basford, Robert Fantles, Robert Kaward, John Howden, John Stonyland, Thomas Howe, John Taylour, Roger Mathew, John of Wood, Edmund Darnelhed, of Rugeley, labourers, Gilbert Worsley, of Morton, in the county aforesaid, gentleman, Lewis Balle, of the same town, yeoman, Richard of Weston, of Breherton, in the same county, tanner, and other of his servants to the number of forty-six and above, in riotous manner arrayed, with force and arms, that is to say, with “bowis, harowis, swerdys, buklers, billes, and other wepyngges,” contrary to the King’s peace, on St. James’s Day in the

<sup>1</sup> Sir George, the third son, succeeded his brother, Sir William, in 1521. *Staff. Colls.*, I, N.S., p. 65.



10th year of your reign [25 July, 1518], by the commandment of the same Sir William Gresley, riotously and forcibly took the said [goods] from the possession of the servants of the said Dame Anne "whiche then hadde trussed and loded ye seid goodes in cartes to have byn brought from the howse of ye seid Dame Anne called Colton wherein she lately dwelled unto ye Manner of Pype where at y<sup>t</sup> time she lay sykke." Which goods are yet withholden from your said subjects by the same Sir William. Please your highness to grant your letters of Privy Seal to be directed to the said Sir William to appear before your highness and your Council in the Star Chamber, he there to restore the goods aforesaid.

*The answer of Sir William Greseley, knight.*

The bill of complaint is uncertain and insufficient. And forasmuch there is no certainty what manner of goods and chattels they be which be comprised in the said bill of complaint, he prays that the bill "mey abate." As to any riot, unlawful commandment or any other misdemeanour he saith he is not guilty.

*The replication of George Greseley and Mary Greseley.*

The bill is sufficient, and the matter contained therein is true. "And for that the seid George and Marye that were executoures to Dame Anne their moder cowld have no perfitt knowledge and the certentie of the gooddes of the same Dame Anne. For that the same Sir William and his seid company unlauffully assembled came so shortly the same Dame Anne lying in her deth bedde and stoppyd all the goodes that the same George ne Marye could have eny medelyng with that goodes," and keeps goods of the value of £25.

*The rejoinder of Sir William Greseley, knight.*

The said Sir William saith as he in his answer hath said, and saith that the said household stuff, goods, and chattels were not stopped, taken and kept from the complainants. The complainants caused the said goods and chattels to be laded in carts at the manor of Colton in the night time "aboute xij of the clock in the sam nyght," intending to have conveyed the same to the Manor of Pype. "And because itt was a darke nyght they had aswell torches and candelles as other lights to have conveyed and caryed away the seid goodes and catalles and the cuntrye nere adjoynyng to the seid Manor of Colton where the seid goodes and catalles were laded in cartes perceyvvyng soo greate a lyght in

the nyght tyme supposed that the seid maner place of Colton had byn a fyre." And divers and maney people near adjoining to the same to the number of sixteen persons or thereabout, for goodwill they bore to the said Dame Anne repaired to Colton to know the certainty thereof, without the assent and knowledge of the said Sir William. And one of them at their coming to the manor of Colton, perceiving that they intended to have conveyed away the said goods in the night time said "that itt were well doon the goodes shuld rest and tarry still to daylyght to thentent that the pleasure of the seid Sir Willyam shuld be knowen in that behalf, by cause he was heyre of the seid Manor of Colton." And thereupon knowledge of the premises came to the said Sir William, and how that the said Dame Anne, his mother, was departed to almighty God. And the said Sir William on the morrow after desired one John Blount, Justice of the Peace of co. Stafford, to go with him to Colton to know what was done that night about the conveyance of the said goods. And at their coming to the manor of Colton communication was had in peaceable manner as well of the time of burying of his said mother and for the provision thereof, as for the conveyance of the said goods and chattels. At which time, before the said Justice of the Peace, certain goods and chattels of small value were delivered to the custody of the said Sir William by Sir John Greseley, clerk, and by the consent of the executors, as by an inventory indented, annexed to this rejoinder more plainly doth appear, upon certain "prisez" as they could agree upon, or else to stand and abide such "prise" as Master Fitz Herbert, serjeant at the law, should indifferently set between them, or else the said Sir William to re-deliver the goods and chattels again to the said executors. By reason whereof the said Sir William has the custody of the said goods and chattels specified in the said inventory, and is ready to deliver them as this Court will award.

"These are the parcelles that remayn with Sir Willyam Greseley knyght att the Manor of Colton of the goodes of Dame Anne Greseley mother unto the seyde Sir Willyam Greseley late deceased."

*The buttre.*

*In primis*, a great coffer. *Item*, a paryng bord. A skypp. Oon Save. ij Cheyres. Oon pale. Oon Throne Can. Fyve Glasses. A Canglas. Foure bottlesles. xij covers for lomes. A long Matt vjlomes. A litle Cofer. An odre Cofer. iij dosen of Trenchers. A long shelf.

*The kechyn.*

The Furneys. A grete Fatt and all thynges that longeth therto. A peyre of Muster Cornes. A stone Morter. A Coule. ij ladles and skymer. A strykyng knyff. A choppyng knyff. A bred grater. A gredyron. A flesshe axe. A grete broche and a litle broche. ij Covertes. A long brandart. ij Cawdrons. ij litle pannes. A litle pott and potthokes. Grete potthookes and cheynes. iiij grete pannes. ij grete pottes. A fryeng pan. A chafyng disshe. A Colandre. iij Rakes to hang pottes. A Closse booke. A saltyng trough. viij banelles.

*The Bultyng Howse.*

A knedyng trozch. A bultyng barell. A Great lome. Foure Seckes. Foure Bultyng clothes.

*The yelyng Howse.*

A great fatte. Foure ledes yn a Corbe. ij clothes over the Fatte.

*The dey hous.*

A Chorne. iiij yorne pottes. A Chesefatt and a presse.

*The newe Parlour.*

ij copboordes. A litle cofer. ij trendle beddes. ij boordes and ij formys. A cheyre.

*The newe chambre.*

A grete bedd. A litle bedd. A cheyr and ij formes.

*The oold Parlour.*

A grete bed. A boord and ij formes. A cupboord. ij beddes in the Indre chambre. A coverlett. Thre cheyres.

*These is more stuff.*

A Garnysssh of vesselles. ij Candlestyckes. A bras mortar with a pestell. ij hangyng beddes oon of red and an odre of grene. A red say for the oold parlour. vj quysshens.

*The sure rejoinder of George Gresley and Mary Gresley to the rejoinder of Sir William Gresley, knight.*

The said George and Mary say as they in their replication have said. And further they say that the said lady being sick in her death bed, at

Pype, required the said George and Mary to cause her neighbours to carry the stuff of the said Lady Gresley being at Culton and to bring it to Pype, where the said lady lay sick, and thereupon the said George laded the stuff in carts about 8 o'clock in the afternoon on St. James's Day in summer by fair daylight, and then and there came the persons named by the commandment of Sir William Gresley and stopped the wains and caused them to tarry all night unto such time as the same Sir William had taken such goods as pleased him.

*“Interrogatories for the parte of George Gresley and Mary his suster agenst Sir William Gresley, Knyght.”*

1. Whether Christopher Colage, Gilbert Worsley, Anthony Woode, Richard of Weston, and Lewis Ball were servants to the same Sir William, and whether they were at the time of stopping the said stuff servants of the said Sir William and of his livery.

2. Whether the said Christopher Colage and others came to stop the said goods by procurement of Sir William Gresley.

3. Whether Sir William Gresley and his company came the morrow next after the Feast of St. James and caused all the said stuff to be put into a chamber in Colton.

4. What persons were assembled at Colton with Sir William when Sir William caused the said stuff to be stopped.

To the first, he saith that Christopher Colage, Gilbert Worsley, and Anthony Woode were servants to this deponent. But Richard Weston and Lewis Ball were not. Weston is now in service with him.

2. The goods were stopped by the said persons as the goods were in the house of this deponent.

3 and 4. True it is that he came thither on the said morrow and brought thither with him Blunte, a learned man, and six of this deponent's servants.

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BLOUNT *v.* BOUGHEY.

Bundle 17, No. 235.

*To the King our sovereign Lord.*

[1523] In most humble wise complaining showeth unto your highness your poor suppliant and true liegeman John Blount, “gentyllman,” that whereas your said orator about ten years past recovered by verdict in

assize a messuage and certain acres of land, wood meadow, and pasture in the town and fee of *Annesley*, co. Stafford, against one Humfray Boughey, of Whitmore, in the said county, gentleman, and the same hath peaceably occupied and enjoyed without interruption since the said Recovery till the 21st of January in the 14th year of your reign, that one Sebastian Boughey, of Whitmore, gentleman, Christopher Boughey, of the same town, gentleman, sons to the said Humfray, William Tayliour, of Annesley, yeoman, and William Browne, of the same town, labourer, with divers other riotous persons unknown to the number of 10 or more riotously assembled with "boys, arros, speris, swordes, bowclers, billis, and stavis," at Annesley, by the procurement of the said Humfray Boughey, and there and then broke into a certain close or pasture, called "the Hall Close," parcel of the said ground so recovered and made assault on one John Curtes, tenant of the same ground, "and xiiij ky and a bull of the said Curtesys price xx<sup>ti</sup> marces there and then being with lyke force did take and dryve away into foren sheres," and part of the same beasts did sell to divers persons unknown. By reason whereof your orator cannot have replevy served, notwithstanding that he hath sued diverse replevies for deliverance of the same, so that the bailly could not make replevy. By reason whereof the said Curtes pursued a Wythernam directed to the bailiff of the Honor of Tutbury. Which bailiff came to the house and ground of the said Bougheys to have taken so many of his beasts in value for the said beasts so sold, and the said Boughey with a great company of riotous persons made assault and "rescouse" on the said bailiff, so that the said bailiff "nether myght ne durst execute his sayd office for fear and daunger of his lyfe." And moreover the said Christopher, Hugh, William Taillour, and William Browne the 15th of May last with other persons unknown to the number of fourteen or more by the procurement of the said Humfray broke and entered into another parcel of ground of your orator's, called "the Lount," being parcel of the ground so recovered, and on Thomas Lortt and Richard Alcoke, servants to your orator, being about the carrying of wood riotously made assault, and them then and there "stroke, beit and evill intreyted," by reason whereof they were in danger of their lives. Of which riot the said persons be indicted before the King's Justice of his Peace, and took and drove away eight oxen price 40 marks into foreign shires. Please your grace to grant writs of *Subpena* to be directed to the said riotous persons commanding them to appear before your grace and your Council to answer to the premises.

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HARCOURT *v.* PESHALE.

Bundle 19, No. 116.

*To the King our sovereign Lord.*

[1527] Complaineth John Harecourt, esquire, that whereas Humphrey Persale, of Knyghtley, co. Stafford, esquire, and Hugh Persale, of the same town, gent., and one Michell Selman of Moreton, servant unto the said Humphrey, caused Thomas Jackson and John Osberne, of Moreton, with other riotous persons to "ley awaitt uppon" the said John Harecourt and his servants to "bete, murder and slee" them. By force of which the same Thomas and John, with others to the number of twenty, 17th February, 18 Hen. VIII., came to the parish of *Gnosale*, co. Staff., with weapons of war, to one Richard Berell, servant of John Harecourt, he being at his plough, and "stroke him downe to the growunde," by force of the which the said Richard "had taken owt of his hedde seventeen bones."

BAGNALL *v.* CHETWYND.

Bundle 19, No. 370.

*To the King our sovereign Lord.*

[1529] Sheweth Hugh Bagnall, of co. Staff., husbandman, that whereas your said subject was seised of the mansion house and place of the manor of *Chetylton*, with certain lands in co. Staff., by the space of ten years, by reason of a lease of twelve years made by one John Eggerton, esquire, deceased. So it is that on 8th Oct., 21 Henry VIII., William Chatwyn of Yngstre, co. Staff., esquire, John Fernewhough of Chetylton, miller, Ralph Fenton, John Hethe, William Dasey, James Ulseman, William Lyke, Edward Finey, Ralph Sherward, Thomas Fernewhough, John Turner, John Taylyeor, John Johnson, Robert Goodwyn of Chetylton, husbandman, William Sargand of Wrynehill, co. Staff., yeoman, Hugh Cartwryth, William Sawnrson of Wrynehill, co. Staff., yeoman, Richard Grenehaugh, William Braslyngton of Chedylton, Thomas Trenmonggour and Thomas Ford, with divers others assembled at the said mansion house and expelled your said orator, his wife and children and put them in great danger of their lives, and cast out the goods of your orator to his hurt and damage.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See *Staff. Coll.*, X, New Series, p. 121 *et seq.*

*The answer of Ralph Fenton, John Hethe and others to the bill of complaint of Hugh Bagnall.*

The said Ralph and John say that as to any riot they are not guilty ; and that the said William Chetwyn and divers others, long time before the said lease, were seised of the manor of Chetulton, co. Staff., to the use of John Egerton and of the heirs male of his body ; after whose death the said premises remained to Randolph Egerton, after whose death the premises came unto Ralph Edgerton as cousin and heir male of the said Randolph, that is to say, as son of one John, son of the said Randolph ; and the said William Chetwyn and his cofeoffees were thereof seised to the use of Raphe Egerton, until the said Hugh Bagnall and one Hugh Wylloughby and others to the number of one hundred, 19th Sept., 21 Henry VIII., riotously assembled at Chedulton, co. Staff., and did expel the said feoffees from the said "chefe place" and ten acres of land.

*The replication of Hugh Baggenall to the answer of Ralph Fenton and John Heythe.*

Hugh Baggenall saith that John Eggerton for a fine to him paid demised to the said Hugh the said house and lands for the years not yet ended, and the whole interest of the said Hugh in the same house was by the said William Chettewyn and Ralph Eggerton confirmed.

*Interrogatories whereupon Ralph Fenton and John Heithe are to be examined.*

1. Whether the said Ralph and John were at the manor place of Chetelton, 8th Oct., 21 Hen. VIII., or no (*and other interrogatories*).  
Ralph Fenton, of the age of forty-five years, sworn and examined 8th Feb., 21 Hen. VIII., upon interrogatories ministered against him by Hugh Bagnall.

1. By the commandment of the Sheriff of the Shire, this deponent, and all the "residue" named in the bill, except John Hethe and Thomas Forde, were there "in accompanyng" the said Sheriff to put William Chetwyn in possession of the manor place of Chetilton according to a writ to the same Sheriff directed the day and year mentioned in the interrogatory (*and other answers*).

John Hethe of the age of thirty-six years sworn and examined as above (*answers as Ralph Fenton*).

HARWELL *v.* GERARD.

Bundle 20, No. 110.

*To the King our sovereign Lord.*

[1529] Complaineth Anne Harwell, widow, that whereas Sir Thomas Grene, knight, and others, to her use stand and be seised of the manor of *Assheley* and divers lands, etc., in *Assheley*, co. *Staff.*, for term of her life. So it is that one Margaret Gerard, of *Kyngesbromley*, co. *Staff.*, widow, William Barne, Thomas Hardyng, John Barne, Humphrey Heth, John Mason, all husbandmen of the same, John Assheley of *Podmore*, co. *Staff.*, Thomas Humbach, Thomas Brenner, Christopher Chaterton, all husbandmen, of the same, "Davit" Short, of *Assheley*, co. *Staff.*, carrier, Thomas Goodale, carpenter, Thomas Vernon, husbandman, Hugh Roo, husbandman, all of the same town, Thomas Acton, of *Wynnyngton*, in the same county, husbandman, Richard Lovet, weaver, William Coton, husbandman, Richard Wenerton, husbandman, all of the same town, Hugh Brenner, of *Sawen*, co. *Staff.*, husbandman, John Yonge, husbandman, of *Charnes*, co. "*Shrewesbury*," and others to the number of forty "in maner of warre arraied" with force and arms, the "*Mondeye in the woke of Pentecost*," 20 Henry VIII., riotously assembled and wrongfully felled and carried away thirty trees out of the said grounds.

18th November, 21 Henry VIII.

*Interrogatory of William Tradok of Asshley, co. Staff., husbandman and "rent gatherer" to Anne Harwell, widow of John Harwell.*

Bundle 26, No. 40.

This is the answer of John Yong to the bill of complaint of Anne Harwell, widow.

John Yong saith that the bill is "feyned." He saith that he is a neighbour dwelling in the parish nigh to Margaret Gerard, and that he in Whitsun Week last, and divers other times before and after hath gone to the church of *Assheley* in her company in peaceable wise, and denies that the said John Yong is guilty of any riot or carrying away of trees.

Bundle 26, No. 432.

*This is the answer of Margaret Gerard to the bill of complaint of Anne Harwell.*

The said Margaret saith that she is seised of the third part of the third part of the manor of *Assheley* with the third part of the advowson



of the church of Assheley, and that there is a waste ground in Assheley called "Lordisley" otherwise "Harwodde," parcel of the said manor, and that she, before Whitsun Week last, caused certain of her tenants in peaceable wise, to fetch five cart loads of "fuel" out of the said waste ground, as lawful was for her to do.

*This is the replication of Anne Harwell, widow, to the answer of Margaret Gerard and others.*

The said Anne saith as in her bill; and that the said Margaret and many more assembled at Assheley to the intent to slay one William Mitton, esquire, at the time of mass on "tewesdaye in Whitsone wyk." And as to the woods called "Lordes ley," one John Harwell, squire, was thereof seised, and the same woods lopped and sold.

Bundle 20, No. 17.

*Interrogatories on the same matter.*

HOMERSLEY *v.* BATE.

Bundle 19, No. 125.

*To the King our sovereign Lord.*

Sheweth Thomas Homersley of the Shawe, co. Stafford, that whereas [1530] your suppliant and his ancestors, time out of mind, have been peaceably possessed and seised of and in certain messuages, etc., in the manor of *Chetilton*, lying in a place called "the Bothom," co. Stafford, till now of late one William Bate, of the parish of Chetilton in the said county, with the might and power of his friends withholdeth the said tenements from him and one William Tatton, joint heir. *Endorsed*; Mich. term, 22 Henry VIII.

*This is the answer of William Bate to the bill of complaint of Thomas Homersley.*

The said William saith that the bill is untrue, and that one William Bate was seised of the said lands, and had issue Thomas Bate and William Bate; and afterwards took away one Emmot, wife unto one Thomas Robynson, and begat one bastard daughter called Margaret; by reason whereof after the death of the said William, the father, the said lands descended unto the said William, the son, by force whereof

the said William Bate, the son, was thereof seised in his demesne as of fee, after whose death the lands descended to William Bate, now defendant, as cousin and heir of the said William Bate, the son, that is to say son of John, son unto the said William. By virtue whereof he was and is seised, and hath been in possession by a long space. And the said Thomas Homersley, pretending title to the lands as son and heir of the said Margaret, would have occupied the lands.

*The replication of Thomas Homersley.*

John, bishop of Chester, annulled the marriage of Thomas Robynson, called "Thomas Thomasson," with the said Emmat.

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ASSHEBY *v.* BIDDULPH.

Bundle 20, No. 151.

*To the King our sovereign Lord.*

[1531] Complaineth William Assheby and Joyce, his wife, which Joyce is cousin and one of the heirs of Humphrey Salway, esquire, deceased, that whereas the said Humphrey Salway in his life was seised of six messuages, 504 score acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 300 acres of meadow and 40s. in rent in the towns and fields of *Cannokke*, Edeforde, Leycroft, Norton and Wyrley, co. Staff., to the yearly value of £33 in his demesne as of fee according to the custom of the said manor of *Cannokke*; and so being seised, died; after whose death the premises descended unto the said Joyce and unto Cecyll and Margaret, daughters and heirs of John Stalwey, son and heir of the said Humphrey Salway. So it is that the said Cecyll, the eldest daughter, married one Thomas Conysbye; and the said Joyce, the second daughter, took to her husband William Asheby, and the said Margaret married one Richard Bedulff, otherwise Bedull, gent.; and the said daughters entered into the premises and thereof were seised, and the said Richard Bedull, of Bedulfe, co. Staff., gent., Richard Cowper, of the Kank, in the same county, husbandman, William Pursell, Robert Smythe, William Pakyngton of Canke, husbandman, and others to the number of twenty persons, 28 July, 23 Hen. VIII., with force and arms riotously put out your said orators from the possession of the said lands, except two messuages part thereof, to the yearly value of 28s. 4d. And whereas of late your said orators the 28th July had eight "keye" within the same lands in the manor of distress the said Richard Coup, William

Pursell and others by the commandment of Richard Bedall riotously destroyed and took the said distress from the same Asheby; And whereas the said Joyce, 8 Feb., 22 Hen. VIII., was at a mill in co. Staff. called "Whitnall mylle," being parcel of the inheritance of the said Joyce, one Robert Smythe and Hugh Myller, by the commandment of Richard Bedull, assaulted and "sore dyd bete" your said oratrix, by reason of which her child was born dead; and the said persons did say that if William Asheby were there they would have murdered him. And one William Pakyngton at a place called the "Halle courte," co. Staff., did assault one Margaret Butler, servant unto your orators; and Robert Smyth, Richard Grene, William Fysher, William Nicholls and others did carry away ten loads of barley of the goods of your orators.

*The answer of Richard Bedulf to the bill of complaint of  
William Ashby and Joyce, his [wife].*

. . . the . . . r persons being poor tenants of the copyhold lands that were of Humphrey Salwey named on the said bill. The said Richard saith that true it is that Humphry Salwey was seised of divers tenements, etc., in the said towns specified in the bill, and held them of the Bishop of Chester as of his manor of Cannok by copy of court roll about the yearly value of £24, and not above £25, and all the said lands by an untrue office were taken into the king's hands, and so remained for many years, so that there was no remedy for the heirs of the said Humphrey Salwey to be restored to the said lands, but only to be taken and sued in the name of the said Bishop. Whereupon he, at the request of the kinsfolk and friends of the said heirs, tended a traverse to the said office, being in the King's Court of his Chancery, which was after that sent by the Chancellor of England before the King in his bench, there to be tried after the course of the common law, which traverse there depended by the space of two years; and when it had so done the said bishop discontinued his said traverse and would no further proceed therein. And after that the said heirs, having no other remedy, made suit to the said bishop to sue a new traverse of the said office, and so to proceed therein until the said Bishop should be restored, and to grant the said tenements to the said heirs after the custom of the said manor. And it was agreed between the said heirs and their friends that all the costs of the said traverses should be paid out of the first issues that should come of the tenements. And the said Bishop did proceed therein unto the time that it came to trial before the king's Justices of Assise. Nevertheless, forasmuch as one of the

names of the said towns was omitted out of the record by the negligence of the clerk the same record was made void. And after that, at the cost of the said heirs a new record was sued in the name of the bishop upon the said traverse returnable before the King's Justices of Assise in the said county. Nevertheless, when judgment should have been given for the said Bishop, it was deferred because the king was entitled to the same tenements by another like office remaining in the king's exchequer. Whereupon a like traverse was commenced in the name of the said Bishop in the king's Exchequer, and there so continued till judgement was given for the said bishop, and that the king's hands should be removed. The costs and charges thereof and others done and to be done for fines to the said bishop and his officers and otherwise to convey and bring the said lands to the possessions of the said heirs it was fully agreed should be paid out of the first issues, and accordingly the said Richard Bedulf, by the assent of Sir Humphrey Conyngesby, knight, having the ward of Humphrey Conyngesby, son of the said Cecyll, by the king's grant, since the time that the said heirs obtained possession of the said tenements, hath reserved the said profits for the said cost.

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ROBYNSON *v.* MEN OF DRAYTON.

Bundle 17, No. 197.

*To the Kyng our sovereign Lorde.*

[1531] In most humble wise complaineth unto your Highness your true subject and daily orator George Robynson, citizen and mercer of London, that whereas your said orator is lawfully seised and possessed of the Manor and parc of *Drayton Bassett*, with all their members and appurtenances, amongst others, co. Stafford, for term of certain years yet enduring, and the issues and profits thereof he and others to his use have taken to their own use, until upon St. Lawrence Day last past one Roger Davyson of Drayton Bassett, co. Stafford, yeoman, Hugh Lee, of the same town, yeoman, and divers other riotous and misruled persons to your orator unknown, riotously and with force and arms, that is to say, with swords, bucklers, bills, staves and other defensive and invasive weapons entered into the said park, called Drayton Parke, and then and there with many "dyspytefull and sedycious wordes made assaute and affraye apon your said orator and wold have beten, mured and slayne your seid orator if thatt he hadd not byn then and there rescued and releved by other his servauntes and frendes." And

thereupon your said orator intending to live in God's peace purchased a writ and warrant of *Supplicavit* out of your Chancery against the said Davison directed to the Sheriff and Justices of Peace of co. Stafford to arrest the said Roger and compel him to keep the peace. By reason whereof one John Vernon, esquire, being one of your Justices of Peace, made a precept to the Constable of the liberty of Drayton aforesaid to arrest the said Davyson "to Kepe the peace agenst your seid orator." By virtue whereof the said Constable the 18th day of September last past, in Drayton church, did execute and serve the said precept. And then and there the said Roger Davyson, Nicholas Griffyth and Nicholas Davyson, son to the said Roger, with force and arms made assault and affray on the said Constable and put him in great jeopardy and fear of his life, saying to him with many "manysshyng and dyspytefull wordes" that he should serve no writ there.<sup>1</sup> And thereupon the said 18th of September one John Bayly of Ferley, by the persuasion of the said Roger Davyson came with force and arms to your orator at Drayton, and said to your orator that he had broken the liberty in serving and executing your said writ in form aforesaid, saying further "that there shuld none of your wryttes be served there, and that he wold rether reyse uppe xx<sup>ti</sup> persons to your seyde orator v, and also spend his blode upon your seid orator or upon hym thatt eny wrytte wold serve there." And the said Roger Davyson, not being yet contented with his said offences, he and the said John Bayly the next day went from house to house in the lordship of Drayton and arrayed thirty-seven men with force and arms against your orator, and they would have murdered your said orator unless the aid of the said John Vernon, "which by his dyscrete wysdome dyd interrupte and lett their unlauffull appetyte, desyre and mynde in thatt behalffe." And so in such riotous manner the said Roger Davyson and John Bayly do daily use themselves toward your said orator and his servants. May it please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said Roger Davyson, John Bayly, Hugh Lee and other persons, commanding them to appear in your "Sterre Chamber" to answer to the premises.

*The answer of Roger Davyson, John Bayly, and Hugh Lee.*

The bill is contrived of malice to "vex and fatygate" the said Roger and John, and to expel them from exercising of their several

<sup>1</sup> The franchises and liberties of Drayton probably arose from the fact that it was held of the Palatinate Earldom of Chester, or because it was originally antient demesne of the Crown.

offices of "baylywyke" of the said manors of Drayton and Farsley to them lawfully granted by the owners of the said manors for the term of their lives before the lease to the complainant. As to any riot, etc., the said defendants say neither of them be guilty.

*The replication of George Robynson.*

The bill is true. He knoweth not that the said Roger and John have any such offices. And albeit they had any such grants they have forfeited the same according to the King's laws.

Writ of *Dedimus potestatem*, dated 18th November, 23 Henry VIII., directed to John Vernon, esquire, and Humphrey Cumberforth, esquire, to receive depositions on the behalf of George Robynson.

*Interrogatories for the part of George Robynson.*

First, whether one John Drake, being Constable of Drayton the 18th of September last past, then having a warrant for the peace directed to him from John Vernon, esquire, at the suit of the said George Robynson, showed to the said Roger the said warrant in the parish church of Drayton, and willed the said Roger to go with him to the said John Vernon or some other Justice of the Peace to find surety.

Whether the said Roger denied so to do or not.

Whether the said Roger said to the Constable that he would not obey that warrant nor any other knave's warrant, and bade the Constable to take it again and get them shortly away; saying further that if the said George Robynson, or any other person for him, caused any writ or warrant to be served there that "he wold smyte of hys hede that servyd yt with the byll that he than hadde in his hande," and thereupon bent himself to have "foryken" the Constable therewith, or not.

Whether the said Roger then went away against the will of the Constable.

Whether the said Roger caused John Bayly, Roger Colyns, Richard Wood and divers other inhabitants and tenants of Drayton to the number of thirty-seven to be in areadiness the next morning with him to disobey the said warrant.

Whether the said Roger commanded any of the tenants of the said George that they should not pay to the same George any rent or ferm for such lands and tenements as they held of him as of the said manor.

Whether the said Roger and Hugh came to Drayton Park on St. Lawrence Day last.

What persons came with them and what weapons the said Roger and Hugh and others had.

For what cause Roger, etc., came thither.

What words Roger spoke to the said George in the Park.

Whether John Baylie came to the said George Robynson to his house at Drayton, the 18th day of September last, and said to him that he had broken the liberties of the said lordship for the serving of the warrant.

Whether the said John Baylye then and there said to Robynson that he would spend his blood on Robynson or on any other person that would serve any such process; and said that he "could make xx men to fyte in that quarell if the sayd Robynson shuld make syne for the contrarye."

"The certifficat of the examynacions of wytnesse broght for the behalffe of George Robynson upon his interrogatories, swore and examynyd before John Vernon and Homffrey Comberfford, esquyers, at Tomworthe the xv day of January in the xx<sup>th</sup>ij yere of the regn of Kyng Henry the viij<sup>th</sup>," etc.

Thomas Drake, Constable of the town of Dreyton, saith by virtue of the precept made by John Vernon, he arrested Roger Davysson in the parish church of Dreyton, "wyche kyssed and obbayd the sayd precept and founde suretye for the peasse accordyngly by fore the sayd John Vernon." And that to his remembrance he did not hear Davysson call it "anny knaves warraunt," nor that he disobeyed the said warrant, or said he would smite off his head with the bill, nor that he departed from the said Constable against his will, but that the said Davysson desired the Constable to pardon him for safeguard of his life when he saw four or five of the servants of the said Robynsson.

William Down, William Smart, John Adcok, and Richard Willyames say in every point as Thomas Drake hath said.

Robert Alen and Thomas Procter say the said Davysson obeyed and kissed the warrant in the church, and when Davysson was without the church they two heard him say "yf that knave Robynsson wolde serve ony wryttinge let hym come hym self for he wold not obey no knave'z warraunt."

Nicholas Schotffylde saith that Roger Davysson never spoke to him to come to any place for that intent to resist the precept, but that John Bayly came to him willing him to meet Master Vernon with his neighbours to desire him to be good that their franchise be not broken.

William Chotisbroke, William Collman, William Gee, and Richard Smythe say in everything as Nicholas Schotffylde hath said.

William Hill says he heard John Bayly say to him that he was "owt

wythe Robynson and that xx<sup>ti</sup> knavez he colde have agynst Robynson fyve in mayntenance of the ryght of ther fraunchez and libertye."

Roger Davysson and John Bayly say that they gave in commandment to the tenants to pay no rent to Robynsson, but to their hands to the use of Robynsson, "by cause they say they be bayllys by pattend and charygd wythe the same."

John Pynder saith that Roger Davysson, "Hue" Legh, and the son of the said Davysson came into the Park of Dreytton, the said Roger having a short dagger and a "whyt" rod, his son a sword and buckler, and Hugh Legh with a sword for that purpose "that a byche of the sayd Davysson was broken losse in to the sayd Parke of Dreytton, and the sayd Davysson before time send his son to the sayd Robynson for delyverance of his byche." Who refused to do so, and so the said Roger with the said Hugh Legh and his son after good manner came to require the said byche of the said Robynson. Which Robynson said "he came to face hym in his gronde and that he was a knave and a false theff and was his bayly." Which Davysson said he was not his bailiff, but Sir John Dudley's bailiff.<sup>1</sup>

Nicholas Wyllson saith as John Pynder, but that Robynsson called Davysson "a falce braggyng knave," and bade him avoid his ground, and he was "to bygge for hym." Davysson answered "the more pytty churle and churles son that he was." And so Robynsson with an arrow in his bow went into his place, and the bailie departed.

Humphrey Agard, John Blande, and John Empson say as John Pynder and Nicholas Wilsson say.

Henry Whyt saith that he heard John Bayly say George Robynsson had broken the liberty for serving the warrant, and said he would spend his blood for the maintenance of the same, but he named not Robynsson nor any person.

William Gee and William Hill testify the same, but did not hear him say he would spend his blood.

Bundle 18, No. 196.

*Interrogatories to be ministered to Roger Davysson and Hugh Leghe in the last suit (Bundle 17, No. 197).*

<sup>1</sup> Edward, Lord Sutton of Dudley, died 31 Jan., 1532, and was succeeded by his son, Sir John, aged 36, known as "Lord Quondam" since he lost his estates. But this may refer to Sir John Dudley, knighted in 1523, and afterwards Duke of Northumberland.



FERRERS *v.* ASTON.

Vol. 15, fols. 50-56.

*To the Kyng our Sovereign Lorde.*

In most humble wise showeth unto your highness your true and [1533] faithful subject Walter Devereux, knight, Lord Ferrers, that whereas your said subject the last day save one of April this present 24th year of your most noble reign being in God's peace and yours, meāning nor intending any hurt to any persons, certain persons of evil disposition, that is to say, Edward Aston of Tyxsall, co. Stafford, esquire,<sup>1</sup> Henry Kewlas, gentleman, Christopher Colwyche, gentleman, Richard Hyll, gentleman, John Smyth, yeoman, Edward Clarkē, "coke," all of Tuxsall, John Baylly, John Woodyng, Henry Pyotte, William Faldryng, John Bate, Robert Kyriam, all yeomen of Tyxsall, Christopher Aston, of Edyngford, gentleman, John Edwardes, of Haywod, yeoman, John Parker, yeoman, Robert Alen, yeoman, Raffe Olyver, "Capper," Robert Pownder, tanner, Raffe Ryssheton, butcher, all of Haywood, John Brodehed, of Stafford, yeoman, Humphrey Brodehed, yeoman, Humphrey Styche, butcher, Thomas Hyll, "taylor," William Reynoldes, "sherman," all of Stafford, Raffe Crosse, yeoman, Roger Crosse, yeoman, George Dokette, yeoman, Roger Bee, husbandman, all of Kynges Bromley, Humphrey Myners, gentleman, James Myners, gentleman, Richard Asshon, husbandman, Robert Asshon, labourer, Richard Eton, yeoman, William Bradburge, butcher, all of Uttoxetour, William Fleccher, Raffe Alderyche, William Butteler, John Adee, Raffe Hydege, William Lynacres, Edward Butteler, John Aldryche, all yeomen of Longdon, and John Oldacre, of the "Armytage," husbandman, and divers others to the number of 120 or thereabouts "with swordes, buckelers, billes, and arroys," and other weapons, assembled themselves together to the intent to have "myschevyde, murdered and slayn" your said subject. Which Edward Aston and one Jeven Gryffythe Appowell, late rebels against your highness and your lawes have married two sisters, and for such things as your said subject committed and did by your commandment for the reformation of the said rebellion in the time of his rebelling, the said Edward Aston therefore beareth and ever since that time hath borne daily deadly grudge and displeasure to your said subject. At the time of which unlawful assembly your said subject accompanied by ten or twelve with him in peaceable manner repaired to Cankewodde aforesaid about such business and affairs as he had there to do, and distant from the place where the

<sup>1</sup> Sir Edward Aston, d. 1568, was Sheriff of Staffs. in 1529, 1535, 1541, and 1557. He married Jane Bowles of co. Carmarthen, related no doubt to Jevan Grffith.

said riotous persons were about two miles. And if it had chanced that your said orator and the said Edward with his said company had met together your said subject and all his company had been murdered and slain. Which unlawful assembly and riotous manner thus used, as before is rehearsed, the said Edward Aston hath coloured and cloaked by reason as he "rehercyed" that he at that time went ahunting in the same wood. Nevertheless, most dread sovereign lord, to the intent that your said subject would have the truth known in the said matter, he complained of the said misdemeanour to Sir Anthony Fitzherbert, knight, one of your Justices of the Common Pleas at Westminster, and also to one of your Justices of your Peace within your said county of Stafford, and to certain other the Justices of the Peace in the said county, who according to the order of your laws have caused the said matters to be enquired of within the said county, and of the unlawful assembly to the ill intent and purpose before rehearsed, the said Edward Aston, with all the other persons before rehearsed are truly and lawfully indicted before divers Justices of the Peace. And thus it is, most dread sovereign lord, the said Edward Aston with his adherents, friends and family, daily lie in wait, to "myscheffe," murder and kill your said subject and his servants if it happen them to repair or come into the county of Stafford. And so the said Edward Aston with his adherents to a great number use themselves with persons not regarding nor fearing your grace nor your laws to the great encouragement and "boldyng" of like offenders. May it please your grace to grant writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said Edward Aston and all the other riotous persons to answer to the premises.

*The answer of Edward Aston, esquire, to the bill of complaint of  
Sir Walter Devereux, knight, Lord Ferrers.*

The said Edward saith that the said bill of complaint in divers things is insufficient and uncertain in the law to be answered unto and "sclaundersously imagyned and untruely contryved" by the said Lord Ferrers and his "adherentes" to bring the same Edward Aston into "sclaunder and infamy," and also the same bill is much grounded upon malice and evil will which the said Lord Ferrers of long time hath "boron and yett dothe beer" unto the said Edward Aston to put him to costs, vexation and "besynes," because the said Edward at the desire of the said Lord Ferrers will not "beer his good will and favour and be famylyer with oon James Baskervyle son in lawe to the said Lord Ferrers and other off the servauntes unto the same Lord Ferrers, which off late lay in awayt shamefully to have murtheryd and slayn the same

Edward and his servauntes, and att the same tyme bothe hurte and may-hemyd dyvers off them," as more plainly appears by a bill of complaint which the said Edward afore this time hath exhibited unto the King's highness now depending in this court. Nevertheless, for the declaration of the truth of the matter contained in the said bill, and for further answer, the said Edward saith that "in the tyme of Lent last past in the xxijth yere off the reign off oure Sovereign Lord the Kyng that nowe is [1532], the same Edward then beyng in the Cytee off London and myndyng to retorn whom to hys Mansyon house in the Countye off Stafford, he afore hys departyng out off the said Cytee accordyng to his duetye beyng the Kyng's servaunt came unto his highnes att his place at Westminster to knowe hys gracyous pleasure whether that he wold commaunde hym eny servyce into his countrey. To whom the Kyng's Highnes the seid tyme gave in commaundement insomoch as the same Edward was Maister off the game and chyeff woodmaster by inherytaunce off the Forest off Cannock in the seid countye that he with good dyligence and attendaunce shuld see and provyde that suche yong Goshawkes and tarcellas as shuld fortune this present yere to be eyred in the same Forest shuld be surely watchyd and safflye kept to the use of his grace, and att tyme convenyent shuld be in lyke wyse saffly brought unto his highnes." According to which commandment the same Edward daily caused diligent watch to be made about the place where the said hawks "eyred," so that neither the eggs nor the birds should be taken away without the King's licence. And about the 8th of April following there came four persons into an ale house in the town of Cank, co. Stafford, wherein one Eyton then dwelt, which persons were unknown to Eyton, "and there they comunyd with hym off the seid hawkes." And after much communication they said that there were certain persons who intended to have the same hawks out of the said wood. By reason of which communication the same Eyton had them "suspect and doubtyd lest thatt they wold have stollyn and imbesyllyd away the Kyng's hawkes or elles the egges off the same hawkes afore they were dysclosyd." Whereupon Eyton came to the said Edward Aston declaring to him both the demeanour and the words of the said four persons. After which the same Edward Aston caused more diligent watch to be made, untill about the 28th of April following, at which time about 10 o'clock in the evening, when the said Edward was going to his bed, one of his servants in great haste came to him signifyng to him "how that ther was about xij persons to hym unknowen in short jerkyns with swerdes, bokelers, bowes, arowes and other lyke wepons walkyng by the wood syde where the seid hawkes then eyred,

and how many moo persons were within the same wood he perfytyly knewe not butt he verelye supposyd that they intendyd to stele away the same hawkes or elles to slee the Kyng's deer within the seid Forest." Whereupon the said Edward Aston "accompanied hymself" with certain of his household servants, tenants and neighbours early in the morning to the said Forest, "and ther taryed in his seid offyce untill suche tyme as he had knowlege howe that the seid Lord Ferrers was huntyng in a tyell wood adjoynyng unto the same Forest." And as soon as the said Edward perfectly knew that it was the Lord Ferrers and his company which were hunting in the said wood, then the said Edward with all his company "went noo further toward the place wher the Lord Ferrers was, butt bycause itt was nere the tyme off fawnyng kept them in the seid Forest within his seid offyce lest the houndes or grehoundes off the same Lord Ferrers or hys company shuld destroy the Kyng's game in the same, and nother he nor noon off his seid company the seid tyme spake with the seid Lord Ferrers nor noon off his company nor came nere to them by the space off a myle and more"; and when he perceived that no hurt was there done, then he in peaceable wise returned to his own house again without any other thing then doing. Whereupon the said Lord Ferrers bearing continual malice and evil will toward the said Edward Aston and minding to molest and trouble him to the "utterest" of his power, procured a precept from certain of the Kyng's Justices of Peace in the said county directed to the sheriff of the same shire to return an inquest of another Hundred than there were the same assembly was made to inquire of the same assembly, "a grett parte off which Hundred the seid Lord Ferrers is Stuard and hath ther grett auctoryte and in maner hath noo office within the seid Shire out off the same Hundred," and the most part of the said inquest were tenants, servants or adherents unto the same Lord Ferrers, or else inhabiting within his said office. By reason of which partial inquest, and by the importune, sinister and extreme labour of the said Lord Ferrers, his friends, servants, and adherents made to the same inquest, the said Edward and divers other persons were untruly indicted of unlawful assembly. And the same Lord Ferrers of his cruel mind caused divers persons to be named in the said indictments, whereof some of them were coming from London and some others were in other places as the time the assembly was made. The which indictment the said Edward intends shortly to traverse to prove the same to be untrue. All which matters the said Edward Aston is ready to prove as this honourable Court shall him award, and prays to be dismissed out of the same with his reasonable costs.

*Interrogatories on the part of the Lord Ferrers.*

Wherefore the said Edward Aston caused the misordered persons to assemble at Cankewod. What number he caused to assemble. What rewards Edward Aston gave to them. Whether the said Edward commanded Ralph Crosse to go to Bromley to labour divers of the inhabitants there to rise out of their beds to go to Cankewod; and whether Edward Aston was privy to the going of John Bate and John Smyth to Stafford and Uttcetur to cause any persons to meet at Cankewod. Whether there were any variances and grudge between Lord Ferrers and Edward Aston before the said Edward laboured to the said lord for James Gryffyth Appowell. Wherefore the said Edward beareth more malice to Lord Ferrers since he laboured to the Lord Ferrers for James Gryffith Appowell than he did before, seeing the said lord did nothing but the King's commandment. Wherefore the said Edward Aston since he laboured the said Lord Ferrers for James Gryffyth Appowell "dyd ymprison and sett a pore man of Haywod in the stockes by cause he showyd unto the Lorde Ferreys servauntes that the Inhabytants in Haywod hadd ympounded and pynned certen catell of the seid Lordes oute of a certen wast grounde in Haywod aforeseid." Wherefore the said Edward Aston since he laboured the said lord for James Gryffith Appowell commanded the inhabitants of Haywod "that yff James Baskerfyld, Esquyer, wich hath marryed the dowghter of the seid Lord Ferreys dyd comme amonge them, that they shuld sett hym en a peyre of Stockes or elles to bryng hym to the seid Edward Aston that he myght sett hym in the Stokes." Wherefore the said Edward imagined such "vyllynne" against Lord Ferrers to set his son-in-law in the stocks.

Edward Aston of the age of thirty-seven years or thereabouts sworn and examined the 9th of July, 24 Henry VIII.

There was no manner of assembly of any township, but he sent for divers of his servants to wait upon him. He showed Ralph Crosse how that he would hunt in Cankewoode, and desired him to come thither. John Bate and John Smyth went to cause his servants to wait on him there. He assembles no such company against Lord Ferrers, and bears him no manner of displeasure. He punished no such man.

Edward Aston.

SMYTH *v.* DAKYN.

Bundle 19, No. 208.

*Interrogatories ministered upon the behalf of John Smyth to have Richard Dakyn, of Alsop in the Dale, son and heir of Thomas Dakyn, examined upon.*

[1535] 1. What deed indented he brought and showed at Stafford before Sir Edward Aston, knight, and Edward Littelton, esquire, at a meeting there for the title of Henry Lord of divers tenements in *Waterfall* (and other interrogatories).

*Interrogatories ministered, etc., to have Nicholas Blore examined upon.*

1. If the said Nicholas were at Stafford with the said Dakyn (and other interrogatories).

1. Richard Dakyn saith that he required his father to give his evidence into his own keeping.

2. Amongst his evidences was a "counterpayn" of a certain deed indented which "wis" that John Lord and Ellen, his wife, did give to Nicholas Lord, their son, all their lands in *Waterfall*.

1. Nicholas Blore saith that he was at Stafford, but does not remember that Richard Dakyn was there; and that John Smith hath the lands in the right of his wife, which she had by her husband, one Nicholas Lord.

*The answer of Humphrey Lord to John Smith, 5th June.*

He never "made any suche labor to" the same James Knotysford for writing any such deed of entail.

*The answer of Sir John Lord, clerk.*

He knoweth not of the contents of this interrogatory.

Thomas Russell, of Stafford, of the age of thirty-eight years, examined on the behalf of John Smyth, 23rd June, 27 Hen. VIII.

1. Saith that the last summer "yt fortunyd" Hugh Barley to be at Stafford, and there lodged at this deponent's house, and also one Thomas Vernon, son-in-law to John Smith, was there. And Hugh Barley told this deponent and the said Vernon, that one James Knottisford showed him that he had made a deed indented of entail of the said lands in *Waterfall* by the special desire of Henry Lorde.

2. The said Hugh Barley told them that Knottisford had left in his house "unknowing" to him a counterpart of the same deed which he showed at *Wolverhampton* by one Dakyn.

3. Hugh Barley said unto this deponent that he had delivered the said counterpart to the said Thomas Vernon.

MEYRE OF WALSALL *v.* HOPKES.

Bundle 18, No. 306.

*To the King our Sovereign Lord.*

Complaineth unto your highness your orator Thomas Meyre,<sup>1</sup> of [1535] Walsall, co. Staff., about seven years past your orator was chosen warden of the service of St. Clement's in the church of *Walsall* by Richard Dyngley, mayor of the said town, and all other his brethren, and the same office should continue "by all one yere" from St. Clement's day to St. Clement's day then next following; by force whereof your orator occupied the office aforesaid "by one yere." In the which year your said orator pursued an action of detinue against one William Stone, by the commandment of the said Meyre, for the detaining of divers goods belonging unto the service of St. Clement: the which action cost your orator above £8 beside the loss of his occupation of lorimer; and because the said suit did not prove as the said mayor and brethren would have had it, your orator oft required his costs and charges for the said suit of the said mayor, and of John Clarkson, next mayor, and of divers other honest men of the said town, the which to recontent they denied; and yet do, by reason whereof your orator in recompense of his said debt detained in his custody two chalices of silver and gold of the goods appertaining to the services of St. Clement. By reason whereof one Richard Hopkes, of Walsall, yeoman, the head and chief ruler there, and divers others of the said town, adherents and friends to the said Hopkes, bear unto your orator daily malice because your orator would not lose all his costs and deliver the chalices aforesaid to the said Hopkes and others; inasmuch as the said Richard Hopkes, John Hoggettes, of Walsall, lorimer, Roger Watt, of Walsall, lorimer, Richard Raynoldes, of the same town, lorimer, Nicholas Lysell, of the same town, lorimer, and four other persons unknown, in the feast of St. George xxvth year of your reign [23 Ap., 1533], riotously with force of arms, made at Envull assault and affray upon one James Asteley, deputy bailie there, your orator and others, and the said Richard Hopkes, for the said malice, in the said affray and riotous assault maimed your orator in his left arm to his great undoing; and since the which affray the said John Hoggettes of Walsall, being friend and partaker with the said Richard Hopkes, divers times since hath assaulted your orator and put him in jeopardy of his life as well in the fields as in his own house, and violently drove him out of the same. By reason wherof your orator, intending to live

<sup>1</sup> It seems as though "Meyre" was Mayor of Walsall.

in your peace, obtained a warrant of one John Grosvenour, gent., one of your justices of the peace in your said county, against the said John Hoggettes; and because neither your officers in Walsall, nor the said Richard Hopkes, John Hoggettes and other their friends, will suffer their own officers, nor any other, any manner of writ, warrant nor other your commandment concerning your common law to be served in the said town of Walsall, your orator complained to Sir Antony Fitzherbert, knight, one of your justices of your Common Pleas and chief of justices of your peace in the said county and Custos Rotulorum in the same. Mr. Fitzherbert, in your name, commanded the said Richard Hopkes to see the said warrant served, the which he did not, but said unto your orator, when he laboured to have it served, it should cost a hundred men's lives if any such writ or warrant should be served in Walsall. And forasmuch as the said Richard Hopkes is the chief ruler and "hedman" there, and the bearer of all misrule there, and the said John Hoggettes an unreasonable man and disobedient to all good laws and orders and that your orator standeth in great danger of his life: may it therefore please your grace your writ of *subpena* to be directed unto the said Hopkes and John Hoggettes them commanding to appear before you.

*The answer of Richard Hopkes to the bill of complaint of Thomas Mayr.*

Richard Hopkes saith that on the feast of St. George, 25 Henry VIII. certain variance was depending between the said James Asteley and John Hoggettes; and as they were riding in company together in peace in the highway from Lychefeld toward Walsall, where they dwelled, the said James Asteley then having inward malice unto the said John Hoggettes, and being then with the said Thomas Mayre and John Woodward, came fast riding after the said John Hoggettes, and as John Hoggettes was there lighting off his horse the said Thomas Mayre did violently with force and arms strike at the said Hoggettes with a great staff and hurt him on the head, by reason whereof he was in great jeopardy of his life; Richard Hopkes then being in company with the said Hoggettes at the said affray charged and commanded the said Asteley and Thomas Mayre to keep the king's peace saying, "What wold ye doo, kill the man?" whereupon they came towards Hopkes saying "Haue att the, Hopkes," and did strike at Hopkes and put him in jeopardy of his life, and he did defend himself against them the best he could, and if Thomas Mayre had any hurt it was then.



*The answer of John Hoggettes to the bill of complaint.*

John Hoggettes saith that as to any riot, force and arms, he is "nott gyltye."

*Depositions taken at Rydwar, 1 March, 26 Hen. VIII.*

Nicholas Lysat, 30 years of age ; Roger Watt of Walsall, 30 years of age ; Richard Raynoid of Walsall, 21 years of age ; depose and say that they were not at the affray, and also William Hawkes, mayor of Walsall, of the age of 40 years, saith that he was at the said assault at the beginning of the same, at a place called the "Shire ooke" near unto "Walsall Wode," and after a few words had betwixt John Hoggettes and James Astell, the said Astell struck at John Hoggettes with his sword and Hoggettes kept off the said stroke with his buckler and struck the said James on the head with his sword, and so this deponent and others departed ; and John Hoggettes went his way homewards ; and this deponent came after with the said James Astell and brought him to the house of one Edmund Beckett and there washed his head, which was somewhat bloody ; after that came one John Brasier, of Walsall, to the said house and bade the said James come out if he were a man ; and so went their way ; and this affray was made in coming from Lychfeld.

John Stone, of Walsall, of the age of 36 years ; William Sediart, of Walsall, of the age of 64 years ; and Roger Wat, depose as above.

Richard Mason, of Walsall, 36 years of age ; John Newhey of Walsall, 40 years of age ; and Nicholas Lysatt, depose ; and John Ball, of Caldemore, of the age of 56 years, saith that the said Thomas Meire and one Thomas Wryght came to John Rossall's house, of Caldemore, the which John was not at home, and then three persons lay in wait for the said Rossall as he should come home ; whereupon he came ; and as they were reasoning Rossall and his father-in-law desired him to go to John Hoggettes and Roger Brett, and this deponent went, and John Hoggettes went to the said Meire.

Thomas Roger, of Rushall, of the age of 50 years, and Thomas Harryes, of Russhall, 30 years of age, say that Brasure willed them to tarry, but they would not.

Thomas Stone, of Walsall, of the age of 30 years ; William Ireland, of Walsall, of the age of 30 years, and John Newhey say as above.

Humfrey Harryson, of Aldrych, 40 years of age, saith that as he and James Slyegh came together from Rushall and toward Aldrych, John Brasier and Thomas Meire came riding as fast as they could toward Walsall from Lychfeld, and said to this deponent and the said James

that John Hoggett should have as much as Astley had before he came at Walsall.

James Slygh, of Walsall, 30 years of age, saith as above.

First, Thomas Pemerton, of Walsall, of the age of 50 years, saith that the Tuesday next before St. Matthew's day, 26 Hen. VIII., the said Hoggettes about 5 of the clock at afternoon came to the house of the said Thomas and would have put him forth and "hadde hym yn to the stokkes" and then William Gouwey, constable of Walsall, as by the said bailie why he would have him to the stocks and he said "for shurtte of the pees," and the said bailie then departed; and on the Thursday next following John Hoggettes with divers persons with him came to the said Thomas Mayre after he had found surety to the constable, out of his house with force. And then came the said constable and took him into ward according to the custom of the town of Walsall.

John Thomson, called "John of Lynkoulne," of Walsall, of the age of 33 years; John Holland, of Walsall, shoemaker, 28 years of age; John Hancokkes; and Stevyn Bretwood, of Walsall, depose and say as above.

*The certifiat of Sir Antony Fitzherbert, knyght.*

The seid Sir Antony saith that the furst day of Marche last past the said defendauntes did come to Ricware Hampstall in the countue of Staff. and brought with theym thes witteneses wherunto I the seid Sir Antony haue subscribed my name, and I did then seuerally examyn theym accordyng to the tenure of the seid commission. And they haue deposed as appereth more playnly therin. And the same parte pleyntiff seid that he could not bryng his wittenezes thider for that they could not labour so ferre. Wherefore I willed hym to brynge theym before oon William Whichall gent. that he myght take their saynge and to send theym to me. And the same William Whichall hath delyuered me a certey writyng herunto annexed sygned with hes hand of the saynges of certen oder persons concernyng the same matter in variance as therby more at large apperethe. In wittenesse etc. the viij day of June in the xxvij<sup>th</sup> yere of the reign of Kynge Henre the viij<sup>th</sup>.

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LANE *v.* WHYTMORE.

Bundle 17, No. 101.

*To the King our sovereign Lord.*

In most humble wise complaineth unto your most excellent High-ness, your true and faithfull subject and daily orator John Lane, gentleman, that whereas one Rauffe Lane, esquire, grandfather to your said orator, was lawfully seised in his demesne as of fee by due course of conveyance unto him lawfully descended from his ancestors and other lawful conveyance in the law of and in one messuage, called "The signe of the Swanne," and a garden thereto belonging, and of and in one orchard containing one acre, in Wolverhampton, co. Stafford, and he the said Rauffe Lane died seised. After whose death the said messuage, orchard and other the premises descended to one Richard Lane, father of your said orator, as son and heir of the said Rauffe. And the said Richard so being thereof seised did assign and appoint the said premises, amongst other lands and tenements, unto one Joyce, his mother, and late wife of the said Rauffe, in satisfaction of the dower of the said Joyce, the reversion belonging to the said Richard and his heirs. And the said Joyce enjoyed the said messuage, garden and orchard and took the profits thereof all her life, which was by the space of twenty-four years and above. After whose death the said messuage, garden and orchard descended to your orator as son and heir of the said Richard Lane, your orator then being within age and your grace's ward. So it is, my gracious sovereign, that one Robert Whytmore, being a scrivener, and evil disposed person and of light conscience and reputation in your county of Stafford, of his wilful and corrupt mind hath now of late maliciously and untruly published and declared that he did forge and write the deeds and other conveyances made of the said orchard to the ancestors of your said orator, whereas of truth the ancestors of your said orator were in possession of the said premises before the said Robert was born. And also the said Robert Whytmore was "fermer" of the premises to the ancestors of your said orator eight or nine years together. Yet that notwithstanding by colour of the said untrue publication of the forging of the said evidences one Nicholas Leveson and James Leveson, gentlemen, being men of great substance and also of great power in the said county have now of late entered into the said orchard, parcel of the premises, and also receive the rents and profits thereof to their own use to the great loss of your said orator. In consideration whereof may it please your highness to grant your writ of [1537]

*subpena* to be directed to the said Robert Whytmore commanding him to appear in your Star Chamber to make answer to the premises.

*Writ of dedimus potestatem, dated 20th December, 29 Henry VIII., directed to Edward Lytleton and Walter Wrottesley, esquires, to examine witnesses in the matter.*

*The answer of Robert Whytmor.*

He has seen in the custody of Nicholas Leveson certain writings whereby he thinks in his conscience that the said Nicholas hath good title to the said garden and orchard. And as touching the forging of any deeds, the defendant saith that about ten or twelve years past one Thomas Partrich, gentleman, came to the said defendant and showed to him a draft in paper of a deed of the said garden and orchard and divers other lands and tenements and willed him to engross it on parchment. And when he had so done he delivered the same writing on parchment to the said Partrich, and what was done afterwards with the same, he knoweth not. And after that the said defendant had perfect knowledge that they who were parties to the writing were dead a long time before the making of the same, "the whiche act gretely movid and growged the conscience of the said defendaunt," perceiving that the said complainant by colour thereof intended wrongfully to disturb the lawful possession of certain persons who had lands specified in the said writing; he therefore has justly and truly [discovered] the very truth, as he now doth in discharging of his conscience in that behalf.

*The replication of John Lane.*

He averreth everything material in the same bill to be good and true. And further saith that all such evidences as he hath concerning the said premises are good and true and old ancient evidences. And insomuch as the said Whitmore hath not denied the just title of the said Lane by old title of inheritance, and had not denied the slandering of the said title, whereby the said Lane hath lost the possession of the premises, and forasmuch as the said Whitmore hath confessed "that he dyd not styk nor wold not styke to engroce dedes of the date of so long a tyme past which is above lx yeres and more, if his seyng in that behalf were true of the dedes of the seid Lane, as it is not," the said Lane prayeth that the said Whyttmore may be awarded by this Court to make to him a sufficient recompense, and also that he may have condign punishment as shall be thought meet by this honourable Court.

FORSTER *v.* SAVAGE.

Vol. 15, Fol. 196.

*To the Kyngis moste honorable Counsayll.*

In most humble manner sheweth unto your good lordships your poor and daily orator, Henry Forster, that whereas Sir William Brereton, knight, for certain sums of money to him by your said orator paid about two years last past demised and set to your said orator a certain smithy, called "Blome Smythe," in Horton, in the county of Stafford, to have to your said orator and his assigns with the course of the water to the same belonging, and all other profits and commodities to the said smithy pertaining for term of certain years yet to come. Yielding therefor yearly to the said Sir William Brereton £12 at four terms in the year. By force whereof your said orator hath been peacefully possessed since the time of the said lease till the 3rd day of March, 28 Henry VIII. [1537], that William Hasels, Christopher Crowder, Thomas Boclugh, Christopher Egge, William Sharrett, William Heth, Thomas Wolsenhome, and Jankyn Weggewood, the elder, of the said county of Stafford, by the commandment of Lawrence Savage, esquire,<sup>1</sup> accompanied with divers riotous and evil disposed persons to the number of twenty and above, to your orator unknown, riotously with force and arms, to wit, with staves, swords, bills, daggers, and other unlawful weapons, at Horton, in manner of war were unlawfully assembled and gathered together to the great fear and peril of the King's subjects within the said county, then and there with spades and other instruments riotously cut, pulled and cast down the banks of a dam of the said water belonging to the said smithy, by reason whereof all the water of the said dam is clearly run out, so that your orator can have no profit of the said smithy to his great loss and hindrance, and to the most perilous example that hath been seen in these parts, if due punishment be not had for the same. In consideration whereof may it please your lordships to direct writs of *subpena* to the said Lawrence Savage and other evil doers to appear before your good lordships in the Star Chamber to answer to the premises, and also enjoining them to keep the King's peace to your said orator and his servants, and also to suffer your said orator to occupy the said course of the said water.

<sup>1</sup> Of Wallgrange; see *Staff. Colls.*, New Series, X, 152.

Bundle 20, No. 304.

*Thaunswer of Laurence Savage, Squyer, Cristofer Ege and Thomas Wolsonhome to the Byll of compleynt of Henry Forster.*

[1537] The said defendants and every of them say that the said Bill is uncertain, untrue and insufficient, etc. And for further answer the said Christopher Ege and Thomas Wolsonhome say that they nor any of them are guilty of any riot, force, cutting, pulling or casting down of the said bank or dam of the said water of the said smithy nor of any other forcible act. And the said Lawrence saith that the place where the said riot is supposed to be made in Horton is a certain great pasture, called "Horton Heyes," and that long time before the said Sir William Brereton, knight, or the said plaintiff anything had in the said pasture, Sir John Bourghcher, knight, Lord Fitysswaren, was seised of the third part of the same pasture undivided, in his demesne as of fee, and held the same in common with one George Twyneo, esquire, and Anne, his wife. Which George and Anne, in the right of the said Anne, were seised of two parts of the said pasture in common with the said Lord Fitz Waren. And the said Lord Fitz Warren about 22 years past by his deed indented dated the 10th of October, 6 Henry VIII. [1514] demised, granted and to farm let all that his part and pourparty of the said pasture called "Horton Hey" to one William Egerdon, of Walgrange, esquire; to have and hold to him and to his assigns for 40 years. Yielding and paying therefor yearly £4 8s. 10½d. and the third part of a halfpenny. And afterwards the said William Egerdon made one Ellen, his daughter, his executrix, and died. By force whereof the said Ellen entered into the premises and afterwards took to husband one James Momgomery. Which James and others, then occupiers of the said pasture, made the said smithy in the said pasture and set up the said watercourse. And afterwards the said James deceased, and the said Ellen took to husband the said Lawrence. By force whereof the said Lawrence and Ellen held the said third part, and at the time of the said riot supposed to be done, and long time before, were, and yet be possessed of the said third part. Which Lawrence occupies and manures the same after his rate and portion thereof. After which lease so made by the said Lord Fitz Warren to the said William Egerdon, and before any interest of the said Sir William Brereton, or of the said Forster in the premises, the said George Twyneo died. After whose decease the said Anne took to husband one Richard Inkepen. By force whereof the said Richard Inkepen and Anne, his wife, were seised of the other two parts in right of the said Anne. And so seised the said Richard and Anne demised all that their

part of the said pasture to the said Sir William Brereton named in the bill ; to have and hold to the said Sir William for term of certain years, the number whereof the said Lawrence knoweth not. By force whereof the said Sir William afore the said feigned riot supposed to be done demised all that his part and pourparty of the premises to the said Forster, now plaintiff ; to have and to hold to him during certain years to the said Lawrence unknown. By force whereof the said Forster, now plaintiff, and the said Lawrence, now defendant, were and yet be possessed of the said pasture in common and undivided. And for that that the said watercourse of the said smithy is kept up by the said Forster and surrounds great part of the said ground and pasture to the great loss and decay of the profits of the same, to the great hindrance of the execution of the testament of the said William Egerdon, the said Lawrence by the interest of his said wife, executrix of the said Egerdon, commanded the said William Haselles and Thomas Boclough, his labouring servants, to cast down part of the banks of the dam. By force whereof the said Haselles and Boclough with spades and like instruments in quiet and peaceable mauner cast down part of the said banks to suffer the water to pass that it should no longer destroy the pasture. To whom came the said Christopher Crowder and helped to cut the said banks peaceably. Which is all the trespass supposed by the said Forster in his bill.

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GRAVENOR *v.* LEVESON.

Vol. 16.

*To the King our Sovereign Lord.*

“Grevously complaying shoyth unto your most excellent Hyghnes” [1537] your faithful subject, John Gravenour, of Tetnall, co. Stafford, that whereas your said subject about two years past brought an action of trespass in your Common Bench, at Westminster, against one Thomas Leveson, of Wolverhampton, gentleman, William Ingram, and other his servants for breaking of his close and . . . a certain parcel of land, called a “Hedlond,” of your said subject, at *Wolverhampton*, whereunto the said Thomas Leveson appeared and pleaded in bar the dying seised of one Walter Leveson, his father, whose heir he is, and gave unto your said subject a colour to the . . . “plee” your said subject made to him a title from one Rose Cleyton, widow, by a gift “in the taylor,” and traversed the dying seised of the said Walter Leveson. Whereupon your said subject and the said Thomas

Leveson were at issue. And your said subject sued out the . . . directed to your sheriff of Stafford. Whereupon one Sir Philip Draycott, knight, then being sheriff of Stafford, returned the same with a pannel of the names of certain persons which hereafter ensue, that is to wit . . . s., Benett Wydowys, Roger Hyll, John Hope, "Here" Foodun, John Pulton, Richard Downes, William Wulloscroft, Robert Parker, Richard Walstwood, John Flecher, and others. Against which said jury process continued by "Jurat" unto the ass . . . your subject sued forth his *nisi prius* to try the said issue. Whereupon George Greseley, knight, then being sheriff of the same county, returned the writ of *nisi prius* between the said parties served, by force whereof . . . upon the twelve persons before named were tried, elected, sworn, and charged to try the said issue. The which said twelve men of their perverse minds by the great importunate corrupt labour made unto . . . and there found that the said Walter Leveson died seised, contrary to the right and truth, they having no other witness or evidence, but only the deposition of one Richard Waynwryght, servant of the said Thomas Leveson . . . ground for Walter Leveson in the life of the said Walter Leveson. Which evidence proves no dying seised. And also the said Waynwryght is a corrupt person of no credit, and was only laboured so to s. . . and yet his evidence, if it had been true, as it was not, did not prove any dying seised of the said Walter Leveson. Whereupon your subject brought in one John Challynour, who deposed by his oath that he himself had continued . . . lifetime of the said Walter Leveson, and at the death of the said Walter Leveson and after his death unto such time as the said Rose Cleyton commenced a *Formadon* against the said John Challynour at the common law, and recovered and ga. . . the said John Challynour of the age of eighty years, being an honest freeholder of 6 marks of land by the year, upon his oath deposed upon a book to the said jury at *nisi prius*, and also one John Wynshurst, an honest person . . . said jury that he was servant to the said John Challynour thirty years, and that in the life of Walter Leveson, and at his death, and since his decease, he continually took the profits of the same land to the proper use of the said Challynour his . . . or let of the said Walter Leveson or any in his name, and that he as servant to the said Challynour many times "ayred" and mowed the same ground for the said Challynour, his master. And also one Richard Barry, being a substantial honest . . . on a book likewise to the said jury that he divers years before the trespass committed was tenant to your said subject of the same ground, and occupied it peaceably. And also one



Owen Jurden being a . . . and true conversation deposed that your subject took and impounded one horse of the said Owen's for trespass on the same ground, and that the said Owen had him out again upon promise that he should . . . at was ever taken to be your subject's land and their's whose estate he claimed therein. And further your subject shewed forth in evidence good conveyance of the premises made by the said Rose Cleyton to him. Which evidence . . . said jury upon their preverse and corrupt minds have passed against your subject and found a dying seised in the said Walter Leveson contrary to the truth. Upon the which verdict the said Thomas Leveson will ask no judgment, and your said subject prayed . . . same at his charge, which the Court would not nor yet will give, because the verdict passed against your said subject. For lack of which judgment your subject can have no attaint upon the same, and so an untrue verdict remains "dysponysyd" . . . rd of all such like jurors in time to come. And forasmuch as your said subject by course of the common law hath no remedy to punish the said false "serement" by attaint, etc., please your grace to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed as well against the said jurors as against the said perjured witnesses commanding them to appear in your Star Chamber to answer to the premises.

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TONACLYFFE *v.* BURGH.

Bundle 18, No. 311.

*To the King our Sovereign Lord.*

Sheweth your orator John Tonacllyffe, husbandman, that one [1538] John Burgh, late of Mydleholme, co. Staff., husbandman, Richard Burgh, of Frythe, in the said county, labourer, and Edmond Burgh, of Frythe, labourer, together with divers other persons unknown, on 20th July, 30 Henry VIII., at *Teysworthe*, in the said county, riotously with great force assembled together with swords, bucklers, daggers, and other unlawful weapons, and made grievous affray upon the said John Tonacllyffe and "hym bytte," and the said John Burgh then and there gave to your said orator many grievous wounds, one upon his head almost to the brain, and another upon his left cheek near his eye, so that they left him there for dead.

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WALTON *v.* HERT, ETC.

Bundle 17, No. 119.

*To the Kings Highness.*

[1538] In most humble wise complaineth to your most noble Highness your poor subject Thomas Walton, of Brigeford, co. Stafford, that whereas one Thomas Hert, Reynald Gerveis, and William Swanne the 8th day of April in the 29th year of your reign, in Brychford feild, at Brycheford aforesaid, with force and arms, "as stavys, swordes and suche lyke," riotously, "routously" and in manner of war took three kyne and fifteen sheep of your said subjects, and them drove away and impounded three days and three nights without ground or cause, to the great hurt of your said poor subject, and not so contented, but the said defendants of their most cruel and evil disposed mind the 3rd of May in the 30th year of your reign, at Brycheford, took, chased and drove away three kine of your said subject and them impounded two days and one night, and struck and hurt one of the said kine, whereby she is utterly destroyed. And over this the defendants on the 9th of May in the 30th year of your reign, at Gamysey lane ende, at Brycheford, made an assault and affray on one Randall Massy, servant of your said subject, "and hym stroke, bete and put in gret jeopardy of his lyf," and took from him a cow of your said "besecher's" and impounded her at Seytford, co. Stafford, without cause. Please your most noble highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said defendants commanding them to appear in your "Sterryd Chambre" to answer to the premises.

[Endorsed.] On the octaves of Holy Trinity.

*The answer of Raynold Gerveys and William Swane.*

As to any riot, route or any other act with force and arms they be not guilty. As to the taking of the three kine and fifteen sheep, etc., the defendants say that they at the said three several times did take the said beasts "dammage fesaunt" on their pastures.

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LONGFORD *v.* BYKLEY.

Bundle 17, No. 75.

*To the right honorable Sir Thomas Audeley, knight, Lord Chancellor of England.*

In most humble wise showeth and complaineth unto your highness your [1540] faithful subject and servant Sir Ralph Longford, knight, that whereas of late it hath pleased your highness to grant your said subject a warrant for a buck "of season" to be taken in this summer last past within your park of Castellhay, co. Stafford, by force of which warrant your said subject being accompanied with Sir George Gryffyth, knight, and my lady, his wife, James Foljam, esquire, John Babyngton, esquire, and Geoffrey Foljam, his brother, and divers others of his friends "for their dysporte and pastyme" the 24th of July last past, being Saturday, [*i.e.*, 1540]<sup>1</sup> did repair and go to the said park of Castell Haye, and your said subject sent one of his servants before to John Byckley, gentleman, keeper of the said park, in gentle manner to give him knowledge of the coming of your said subject and the other company. Which Byckley having knowledge before of the coming of your said subject, and being fully minded of his malicious mind to let and withstand your said subject to hunt in the said park, gathered and assembled the same day a certain company of riotous persons in harness within his dwelling-house, being the lodge of the same park, the certain number whereof your said subject knoweth not, and sent one Ralph Agard, his household servant and six or seven with him with bows and arrows to keep the park gate that your said subject should not come into the said park. To the which Ralph Agard your said subject "shewed" the cause of his coming and that he had your grace's warrant for a buck in the same park, and desired him that he would open the gate, that he and his friends might come in to hunt the buck. And then the said Ralph Agard said that it was not his master's mind that they should hunt there, and therefore he would not open the gate, and said moreover, that if they would come into the park "they should cum on an arroe." And thereupon your orator and such as were in his company "stayd," and then the said Ralph Agard and the other "mysruled persons" began to draw their bows with arrows in them, and would have shot at your said subject if the servants of your said subject had not quietly cut the bow strings of the said misruled

<sup>1</sup> Presumably 1540. The 24th July was a Saturday in 1540, but Sir Thomas Audley, to whom this plaint is addressed, was created *Lord Audley of Walden* in 1538.

persons. And then the said John Bykley himself came to them with his bow bent and three persons with him having bow and arrows and other "wepones of fence." To whom your said subject showed the warrant and desired him that it might be "servyd," the which to do the said John Bykley utterly denied, but said that they should in no wise hunt there where all other persons have hunted and had their warrants "served" in the same ground without let or disturbance of the said John Bykley. And then your said subject said to Bykley that he would then depart home and come again on the morrow next after, being Sunday, to hunt there and to serve there the said warrant. "And on the morrowe next after beyng Sondag the xxvth daye of Julye the seid Bykley uppon his malicious mynd not yett fully satsfyed send his servauntes yerely in the mornyng into the villages and townes next adjoynng to the seid parke, desyeryng all them that wold do any thyng other for my Lord Steward [Ferrers] or for hyme that they should be in the parke with there harnesse and best wepons the same daie beyng Sondag by vi of the cloke in the mornyng, there to lett and withstond youre seid subject that he shold nott huntt in the parke nor serve youre seid warrantt. Insomoch the seid John Bykley had gethered and assembled together in the said parke the same Sondag in the mornyng Thomas Rolston of Rolston in the countie of Stafford, gentleman, Laurence Rolston of the same, gentleman, and Charlez Villers of Tutbury, gentleman, and other riotouse persons to the nomber of cc in theyre harnes and beaste wepons there to have assaulted youre seid subject yf he had commyn thither accordyng to his seyng." Of all which riots and misdemeanours your said orator complained to the Justices of your peace. Which said Justices directed their precept to the sheriff of the said county commanding him to cause twenty-four good and lawful persons to appear them at Uttaxather on St. Lawrence Day to enquire upon the said riots. The which said Sheriff did accordingly, and your said orator there and then shewed and declared to the jury all the said riots and misdemeanours, and also in proof thereof caused divers honest persons to depose and testify everything before alleged by your orator to be true. And, moreover, divers of the said riotous persons did confess to the said jury the said insurrections and unlawful assemblies. And all that notwithstanding, the said jury, "what for dreade and what for favour," the said John Bykeley being chief officer there under the Lord Steward, in nowise would find the said unlawful assembly to be done. At which Sessions Ralph Agard, one of the said misruled persons, said in the open Sessions that all that his master and he had done was done at the commandment of the Lord

Steward, and said, moreover, that he knew well that my said Lord Steward would "beare" them in all that they had done. Whereupon by the discretion of your Justices a "lenger" day was given to the said jury to enquire of the same. And before the said day your grace directed your most gracious letters to the Justices commanding them that if the said Jury would not find and present according to the truth that then the same Justices should bind them by recognisance to appear before your grace and your Council at Westminster in xv of St. Michael. And yet all that notwithstanding the said jury would not in anywise find or present anything for punishment of the said riots. May it please your Highness to grant writt of *subpena* to the said John Bykley, Charles Villers, Thomas Rolston, and Lawrence Rolston, to answer to the premises.

*The answer of John Bykley, gentleman.*

The said Sir Rauf Longford came to the said park with fifteen persons without any blowing or calling for the keepers of the same park, slew a buck within the park with his greyhounds, and forthwith Ralph Agard came to him reverently saying to the said Sir Ralph that he marvelled that the same Sir Ralph would hunt there in the fence time. And after many rebukeful words by Sir Ralf, the said Ralph Agard said to Sir Ralf that abeit he had so slain the said buck he should not carry the same buck away with him unless the same Ralf Agard saw a sufficient warrant for the same. Whereupon the said Sir Ralph delivered to Ralph Agard a warrant of the King's Highness purporting to command the keeper to deliver to the said Sir Ralph one buck of that park. And the said Ralph Agard said to the said John Bykley that the said Sir Ralph then and there said to Ralph Agard "that he wold sley half a dosyn buckys there eare somer went out dyspyte of the same Agardes masters hed and of his, and that his master had served the same Sir Rauf Knavysshely." And afterwards, on Saturday, being the eve of St. James the Apostle last past, the said Sir Ralph Longdon, Sir George Gryffith and other persons to the number of one hundred came to agate of the said park, called "Nedewodeges," and they being without the park the said Ralph Agard and another servant of the said John Bykley's being within the said park, and either of them having a bow and arrows, the said Sir Ralph commanded the said Agard to open the same gate, which to do Agard denied unless he might see a sufficient discharge for the same. Whereupon the said Sir Ralph "immedyately with many furyous wordys commaunded his servanttes to

breke the pale and the knavys hed." And thereupon caused divers of his said company to break and cast down many pales of the said park. "And the same Ser Rauf in grete hast and fury dyd clymme over the pale of the same parke, and then and there he and dyvers of his seid company violently made an assaute and affray uppon the seid Agarde and his fellowe, and in that affray resortedt unto them a paler which was werkyng in the seid parke, and one other of the servantes of the same John Bykley, and one John Hynkys, and then and there in that affray the seid Agard was wounded uppon his hed and their bowes strynges were cutt over their heddies, and the bowe of the seid John Hynkys was cutt over his hed, and by occasion of the noyse of the seid affray the seid John Bykley and an other of his servanttes with their bowes came toward the seid Ser Rauf Longford and his seid company; and the seid Ser George Griffith perceyvyng the cummyng of the seid defendaunt and entendyng to cesse the seid affray and to kepe the Kynges peace resortedt toward the seid defendaunt, and the same defendaunt lattying the same Ser George knowe that he trusted hym not bycause that he came in that company, the same Ser George seid that he would do the best that he could with the seid Sir Rauf Longford to ceasse all busynes and to make all well." Whereupon the same Sir George resortedt again to Sir Ralph and spoke to him, and came again toward the said John Bykley and warned him to take heed, saying that Sir Ralph was an unreasonable man and that Sir George could not "order" him. Whereunto John Bykley said that Sir Ralph should not hunt there that day "but that he shuld have the same Bykleys lyfe therewith onlesse that he showed a sufficyent warrant for the same." And Sir Ralph said that he would be there agayn on the morrow by 9 o'clock with more than the said Bykley should be able to answer, and further said that he had a warrant and showed it forth. Whereunto Bykley said that Sir Ralph might have showed it before, "and noone of the seid busynes shuld have neded to be done," and so Sir Ralph and his company departed. Whereupon the said John Bykley pondering the malice of Sir Ralph, considering also the duty of the Earl of Salop to whom the King's highness had before committed the custody of the said park, and that the same Earl had put the said defendaunt in trust to defend the park and game therein. And that the defendaunt by the persons of himself and of his household servants was not able to resist the manasse of the said Sir Ralph, "and nothyng els intendyng but the lawfull defense of hym self and saufgard of the Kynges seid game sent to the two Constables next inhabtyed and to Thomas Rolston and Charlys Vyllers gentylman and desyred them to bryng their neybour

with them bytyme on the morowe into the seid Parke to see the Kynges peace kept and his graces game saved." By occasion whereof the said constables, Thomas Rolston, and Charles Vyllers with other persons to the number of a hundred and above on the morrow came to the said park for the only purpose aforesaid, without any harness to the knowledge of the said John Bykley, except himself "for saufgarde of his owne persone and one man to whome his wyfe brought a salett, and an other yong man to the said Bykley unknowen which (as he supposeth) had a coote of defense." And because on the morrow Sir Ralph nor any other persons pretending to commit any offence in the said park came into the said park, the Constables and all others quietly departed to their mansion places.

Bundle 18, No. 137.

*Interrogatories on the part of Sir Raffe Langfford, knight,  
against John Bykley.*

Whether Sir Ralf Longfford the 24th of July last past came to the park of Castlehey to hunt. Whether Sir Ralph sent one of his servants to Bykley to give him warning of his coming. What company of people were assembled at the lodge. What words Agard spoke to Sir Ralph. Whether one Robert Lokard, servant to Bykley, came to the house of one John Laplowe, of Draycott, and said that Sir Ralph would be at Castelhey the next day to hunt, etc.

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BASSETT *v.* AGARD.

Bundle 17, No. 106.

*The replication of William Bassett, esquire, complainant, to the  
answer of Walter Agarde, defendant.*

The said complainant saith that he doth and will aver and maintain [1542?] every matter in his bill contained to be just and true, and that true it is that the said John Robertes mentioned in the bill, then or late servant to the said defendant, and by the said defendant produced to give in evidence to the said Jury at the said assizes specified in this complainant's bill and for trial of the aforesaid issue did, wilfully and corruptly depose upon his oath that the same John Robertes did deliver this complainant, late sheriff of co. Stafford [1542], your Majesty's writ of *Quo minus*, whereby your Majesty did command this complainant that he should take the said William Allen mentioned in the bill if he were found in his

bailiwick and him safely should keep so that he should have his body before the Barons of your Exchequer in the term of St. Michael mentioned in the bill to answer the said defendant in a plea of debt. And that true it is that the said Walter Agarde not having the fear of God before his eyes did procure the said John Robertes to commit the said perjury. Without that that there was any such writ of *Quo minus* so delivered to the complainant, then sheriff, to be executed. And without that that by virtue of the said writ the said William Allen was arrested and in the custody of the said sheriff at the suit of the defendant, and that the said complainant the said 5th day of October the said 30th year of your reign [1538], at Uttoxeter, thinking and fraudulently intending to withdraw the defendant from the due recovery of his debt of £52, did suffer the said William Allen to escape out of his custody.

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JARDEN *v.* LEVESON.

Bundle 20, No. 104.

*To the King our Sovereign Lord.*

[1542] Sheweth Richard Jurden,<sup>1</sup> of Wolverhampton, co. Staff., husbandman, that whereas your said orator was lawfully seised in his demesne as of fee of one messuage and a croft lying in *Wolverhampton*, and enjoyed the same one year, until 3 July, 34 Hen. VIII., at which time one John Cowper, Ralph Holden, Richard Dylwer, William Swan, William Pollett, Nicholas Williams, Hugh Pelpowe, Roger Waynwright, John Walle and Roger Spenser, by the commandment of one Thomas Leveson, gentleman, with force and arms entered into the said messuage and croft and carried away certain grass to the value of 10s. being there cut down to have "byn made in hey"; and did wrongfully expell your said orator from the possession of the premises.

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HARCOURT *v.* HARCOURT.

Bundle 30, No. 18.

*To the Kinge oure souveraigne Lorde.*

[1543] Sheweth unto your highness your daily orators Robert Harcowrte and Anne Harcourte, mother unto the said Robert, of *Ronton*, co. Staff., whereas your said orators were in Gods peace at Ronton, aforesaid, the last day of May, 35 Hen. VIII. [1543]. So it is that one Simon

<sup>1</sup> See p. 43.



Harcourte, Michael Harcourt, Edward Standeley, Humphrey Alcocke, and divers other riotous persons to the number of ten (by the commandment of John Harcowrt, knight, and Dame Margaret, his wife, which be and always have been "common brekers of your lawes") at the time and place abovesaid, riotously with force and arms, that is to say, with "bylles, sordes, bokelers, bowys and arroes," did make assault upon your said subjects; by means of which the said Anne was and yet is almost "besydesse her wyttes," and the said Robert Harcourt had then and there been killed if he had not been rescued by one Thomas Rogers, by means of which rescue the said Robert, with much pain, took the church-yard for the "sauegarde" of his life. In consideration whereof your said orators be like to stand in jeopardy of their lives by the unlawful demeanor of the said riotous persons, unless your highness speedy remedy to them be showed. Therefore may it please your highness to grant your writ of *subpena*.

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YOXSALL *v.* WARDE.

Bundle 19, No. 245.

*To the King our sovereign Lord.*

Sheweth William Yoxsall, of London, "bocher," that he was seized [1543] of one capital messuage or mansion place in Gyhewalhyll, co. Stafford, and so being seised one Stephen Warde, late of *Whychenor*, co. Staff., yeoman, James Blundell, late of the same, yeoman, servants to George Gryffyth, knight, and one Robert Wotton, of Wodhowsen, of the parish of Yoxsall, co. Staff., labourer, with others to the number of twelve, 29th March, 34 Hen. VIII. at Gyhewalhyll, with force and arms assembled and made assault upon one Nicholas Yoxesall and William Hoppey, servants to your subject.

*The answer of Stephen Warde to the bill of complaint.*

Stephen Warde saith that the bill is untrue, and that one Robert Marrys was seised of the premises; after whose death the premises descended unto one Ellen Morrys, wife of Edmund Ward, father to this defendant, and to Joan Morrys, wife of Thomas Coxston; by force whereof the said Edmund and Thomas entered into the said lands as in the right of their said wives; and the said Thomas Coxston and Joan his

wife, by fine levied in the term of St. Michael, 4 Henry VIII., granted all their right and title of the said lands to Edmund and Ellen and to the heirs of the said Edmund, and also, the same term, the said Edmund and Ellen recovered the said lands against the said Thomas Coxston and Joan his wife.

*The replication of William Yoxsall to the answer of Stephen Warde, and interrogatories on the same matter.*

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MYLLWARD *v.* WHITE.

Bundle 18, No. 313.

*To the King our sovereign Lord.*

[1543] Sheweth your faithful servant Thomas Myllward, that whereas one William Baker was seised of 1 messuage, 40 acres of land, 40 acres of pasture, 10 acres of wood, and 30 acres of moor, in Warley, cos. Salopp, Worcester and Stafford; and so being seised for £41 to him paid by one Humphrey Stafford, esquire, he thereof enfeoffed the said Humphrey and Margery his wife, to have to them and their heirs for ever; and so being thereof seised the said Humphrey died, and the said Margery him "over-levied"; and the said Margery made her will, and willed that the said messuage, etc., should be sold by your orator, the said Thomas Myllward, executor of the last will of the said Margery, and the money thereof equally to be divided between one John Fryth, son and heir of the said Margery, Arthur Fryth, and Edmond Fryth, also sons of the said Margery; and after the said Margery, about the space of four years last past, died; and your said orator, with the assent of the said John Fryth, entered into the said messuage, etc., and intended to have sold the same and employed the money according to the said last will, and he being thereof seised one Philip White, pretending a title to the premises, accompanied by four other persons unknown, in riotous manner arrayed, 25th May, 34 Henry VIII., by the maintenance of one Thomas Luson, gent., John Perkys and others, forcibly did enter into the said messuage, etc., and did expel one Richard Baker, tenant to your orator, ever since which the said Philip White hath occupied the same.

By virtue of the King's commission directed to William Sparry and Thomas Rottyssey depositions were taken, the 20th July, 35 Henry VIII. (*Long depositions follow.*)

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ALPORT *v.* COLMAN, ETC.

Bundle 17, No. 370.

*To the King our sovereign Lord.*

Humbly showeth unto your excellent Majesty your true and faithful [1544] subject Thomas Alport, that whereas one Richard Bydulfte, esquire, was seised of the moiety of one pasture called "Hanchurche Hey," and of one other pasture called "Wissiche," in *Cannocke*, co. Stafford, as tenant by the courtesy of England after the death of Margaret, his late wife, one of the daughters and heirs of John Salwey. And the same Richard about one year last past demised the said pastures to your said suppliant for certain years yet enduring. And your said suppliant being so possessed, William Colman, of *Cannocke*, yeoman, and Richard Holder, late of *Cannocke*, yeoman, and seven or eight persons to your suppliant unknown, the 27th of March in the 35th year of your reign, unlawfully assemble themselves together, and did lay the said pastures open as common : and accompanied with John Jackeson, of *Cannocke*, yeoman, and William Cooper, of *Cannocke*, husbandman, the 28th day of March in the 35th year of your reign, with force and arms, came to "Hanchurche Hey" and carried away two cartloads of "tynsell" of the goods and chattels of your said suppliant, by him prepared for the inclosure of the said pasture called "Hanchurche." Please your highness to grant writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said William Colman, Richard Holder, John Jackeson, and William Cowper to appear in your "Sterre Chamber" to answer to the premises.

[Endorsed.] On the morrow of All Souls next.

MEVERELL *v.* WALKER.

Bundle 18, No. 309.

*To the King our sovereign Lord.*

Sheweth to your Majesty your orator, Fraunces Meverell, is seised of [1543] Manor of *Throwley*, co. Stafford, in his demesne as of fee, from and through which manor, as well your said orator and all others whose estate he hath in the said manor, and all other the king's subjects, passing and going through the said manor, of time whereof memory of man is not the contrary, have had and of right ought to have a common highway for carthorses and otherwise to carry, lead and go with all manner of carrying

through and from the said manor to the parish church of Ilom, and to a mill there called Thorp mill, and also to the market of Asheborne, through and over a certain ground called Handley now being in the possession of one Humfrey Walker, gent. The which way the king's subjects have had and peaceably used until now of late the said Humfrey Walker, Henry Walker, son of the said Humphrey, William Bloer and Humphrey Cowper with divers other assembled with force of arms, staves and other weapons, and stopped up the said highway, 35 Henry VIII.

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GREY *v.* BRADLEY.

Vol. 16, Fol. 294.

*To the King our Sovereign Lord.*

[1544] In most humble wise showeth unto your most excellent majesty, your true and faithful subject and daily orator, Thomas Grey, esquire. That whereas one Sir Giles Strangeways, knight, was lawfully seised in his demesne as of fee of the Manor of *Ambulcote* with "his" appurtenances, co. Stafford, by rightful title of inheritance unto him descended from his ancestors, whose heir he is, and the said Sir Giles so being seised, for a certain sum of money to him by Rowland Shakerley well and truly paid about four years now past bargained and sold the said manor to the said Rowland and to his heirs for ever. By virtue whereof the said Rowland hath always quietly taken the profits, etc., until of late time that one John Bradeley, of Sturbryge, co. Worcester, yeoman, William Cheltham, Thomas Wodhall, Edward Butler, John Homer, Roger Yorke, William Dyke, Richard Shewe, George Bradeley, all labourers of Sturbryge, Roger Homer, of Cradeley, co. Stafford, labourer, and divers other riotous and misruled persons to the number of twenty and above, to your orator unknown, the 18th of March in the 35th year of your reign [1544], with force and arms entered into one pasture or wood, called "Lyghthyll," being parcel of the said manor of *Ambulcote* and expelled your said orator, and the same pasture or wood do yet detain. Please your highness to grant writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said John Bradeley and other riotous persons to appear in your Star Chamber to make answer to the premises.

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LYTTLETON *v.* WOLSELEY.

Bundle 27, No. 152, and Bundle 32, No. 101.

The report of the Commission and the interrogatories are as [1545] follows:—

*Dilecto Sibi Waltero Wrothesley armigero necnon dilecto sibi Humfrido Welles, armigero de potestate commissa retornabili xv, Hillarii.*

Our dewties unto your honorable Lordshippis Remembred these shalbe to signyffye unto the same that according unto the kings Majesties Comysson herin inclosed unto us derecked. We repared to the within named John Wolseley at Wolseley bregge the xix<sup>th</sup> day of Jenuarii in the xxxvi<sup>th</sup> yere of the Reigne of our Soveragne lord king Henry theght and examyned the said John Wolseley upon the contents of the said bill of compleant. And upon an owthe to him by us menestered we toke his answeere to the same, wiche said answer with the said comysshon and bill of complent we have annexed together and sent unto your honorable lordshipps subscribed with our hands to the same and sett our sealis the day and yere above said.

Walturus Wrotyssey,  
per me Humfridum Wellys.

*Interrogatoryis to be mynystred on the parte and behalfe of Mr. Edward Lytyllton complaynnant agaynst John Wolseley, John Brynley, John Hasulton, and William Wryght, defendants.*

Whether Edward Lytyllton nowe complaynnant and his auncestors be and have bene fosters of the fee within the kings highness forest of Cannock in the County of Stafford.

*Item.* Whether the right reverend father in God, Rychard, nowe byshope of Coventre and Lychefelde, dyd complayne to the lorde Chancellor of thys Realme apon thys defendant for hunting in the aforesayd forest of Cannocke.

*Item.* Whether the wood called Wolseley woode be within the forest of Cannocke aforesayd.

*Item.* Whether the aforesayd John Wolseley and other the defendants assembled themselves together the xij<sup>th</sup> day of Septembre at the aforesayde Woolseley Woode in ryotouse maner that ys to say with swordes, bukkelers, staves, bowes, and arrowes and other weapons, and ryotously entryd into the aforesayd forest.

*Super Interrogatoriis ex parte Littleton ministratis.*Examinatur VII<sup>o</sup>, Februarii anno XXXVI<sup>o</sup>.

John Brynley, of Wolsley bridge, in the County of Stafford, sworn, etc.

To the first he saithe he never knew nor herde that the said complaynant or any his auncetors were foresters within the forest of Cannocke.

To the second he denyeth that ever the bysshop of Coventry and Lichfield did complayne upon this deponent or any other the defendants to the lord Chancelor for hunting in the said forest to this deponent's knowledge.

To the third he saith the same wood callyd Wolsley wood is not within the forest of Cannocke nor is any parcel thereof.

To the last he confesseth that this deponent in the company of John Wolseley and dyverse other tenants of the saide Wolseley did hunt about the tyme articulated within the said Wolseley wood being the grounde and inheritaunce of the said John Wolseley as they have sondry tymes accustomedly usyd so to do. And he denyth any riot or force or any weapons there as he saithe more than lytell hunting staves.

John Hasulton of Colwich, husbandman, and Wm. Wrighte of Rigely, yeoman, both of the county of Stafford, answer similarly.

TOMYNS *v.* SPITTAL.

Bundle 18, Nos. 85 and 105.

*To the King.*

[1546] In most lamentable wise complaineth unto your most excellent majesty your faithful subject and orator Humfrey Tomyns, that whereas one Elizabeth Tomyns, widow, now deceased, late the wife of Thomas Tomyns, deceased, father and mother of the said Humphrey, was lawfully seised according to the custom of the manor of *Enveld*, belonging to the parson of *Enveld*, of 1 messuage and 40 acres of land, meadow, wood, and pasture, in the parish of *Enveld*, co. Stafford, by Copy of Court Roll of the said manor, called "the Parson's Manour of *Enveld*." After whose decease the premises descended to the said Humphrey, who has taken the profits of the premises by the hands of John Gyldon, until the 25th day of July in the 37th year of your reign, one Hugh Spyttull, with two persons unknown, with force and arms entered into the premises and took and drove away one ox

and expelled the said Gyldon from the premises. Whereupon your said suppliant sued to Sir John Harcourt, knight, sheriff of the said county for replevin. The said sheriff at his "Countie" holden 12th January last awarded "*wythernam*." By force whereof the said Gyldon was thereof possessed four days. About the 20th of January next, Humphrey Broke and others with force and arms came to one other messuage of the said Humphrey Tomyns in Nether Morfe, in Enveld, in which your orator dwelleth, and of which he is lawfully seised by title of inheritance from his ancestors, and took the said ox, and disseised the said Tomyns of the same messuage. Please your majesty to grant your writ of *subpena* to be directed to the said Hugh Spyttull, etc., commanding them to appear in your Star Chamber to answer to the premises.

*The replication on Humfrey Tomyns and John Gyldon.*

The bill of complaint is true. The said Hugh Spyttull hath confessed that he and two of Walter Wrottesley's servants took an ox of the same Gyldon and drove him away.

*Upon interrogatories on the behalf of Tomyns, 15th June, 1 Edward VI.*

Hugh Spittel, of Envild, husbandman, sworn, confesses that two servants of Mr. Wrottesley's, whose names he knoweth not, came to the house of this deponent, being bailiff to the said Mr. Wrottesley, about noon, and told this deponent they were come to receive the ox of John Gildon for a heriot due to their said master, and thereupon this deponent went with him to the house of the said Gildon, and there finding the ox in the fold by the house drove him away, not breaking any locks or doors there. And saith they drove the same to Wrottesley Hall, and had no weapons but staves. Knows not whether the ground where they took the ox belongs to the parsonage of Enveld or not. Mr. Wrottesley kept the ox for his heriot three days. Was not at the taking of the ox the second time.

Humfrey Broke, of Envild, husbandman, confesses that he, being constable, accompanied with Richard Billingsley, came to the house of the said Tomyns to fetch again an ox which he wrongfully had delivered by force of a *withernam*, mistaking the same ox to be the ox of Hugh Spittel, which indeed was the ox of the said Byllingsley.

13th February, 1 Edward VI.

*Upon interrogatories on behalf of Tomyns.*

Richard Billingsley, of Envild, yeoman, sworn, denies any assembly about the house of the plaintiff, other than that about a twelve month past and more the plaintiff had taken away one ox of this deponent's by way of distress, as he said, and thereon this deponent taking with him Humfrey Broke, the Constable, and no more, this deponent having a staff and Broke a hedging bill, went to the house of Humfrey Tomyns, and came to the back gate of his orchard, being fast locked, and with his staff he knocked off one board of the same gate and so entered into his courtyard, and there found his ox in the stable, and carried away the same ox with him.

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BROKE *v.* EGERTON.

Bundle 25, No. 242.

*The answer of William Edgerton to the bill of complaint of Henry Broke.*

[1546] The bill of complaint is untrue, etc. The said defendant, the said 12th day of July mentioned in the bill and three days before, was at Ludlowe about forty miles distant from the said manor of *Wrynhill*, named in the bill, before the King's commissioners in the Marches of Wales, and about six or seven days after, the said defendant, being uncle to the said Ralph Edgerton named in the bill, hearing that his said nephew had been before Lord St. John in the Court of Wards, where he had "oppned" his title to the tenements mentioned in the bill, so that there appeared no matter but that the said Ralph Edgerton might enter into his lands in the county of Stafford, and thereupon the said Lord St. John was contented and had declared to the said Ralph that he might enter into his lands in the county of Stafford, and heard also that the said Ralph thereupon had entered into the said Manor in peaceable wise. Which said manor is the lawful inheritance of the said Ralph by descent from his father, the said defendant taking with him but one of his servants accustomed to wait on the said defendant without any weapon upon them other than such as accustomedly wear, in peaceable wise came to the said manor place, the said Ralph then being in the same manor place in peaceable wise without any force, and in friendly manner passed the time with his said nephew in honest pastime



for an hour or two, and so departed to his own mansion place one mile distant. Without that that the said defendant, Ralph Edgerton and others named in the bill the said 12th of July with force and arms entered into the said manor place, or that the said defendant was within forty miles of the said manor place or did assault Margaret Gruffyth or any other person and without that that the said defendant is guilty of any riot, etc. All which the said defendant is ready to aver.

*The answer of Edward Walker to the bill of complaint of Henry Broke.*

As to any riot, etc., he is thereof nothing guilty. Ralph Edgerton named in the bill, about the 12th of July mentioned in the bill sent to the said defendant to come to him to the said manor place of Wrymehill, and the defendant in peaceable manner came without any manner of weapon other than a staff or he is daily accustomed to wear, and there found the said Ralph Edgerton. And the said Ralph declared to this defendant that the cause of his sending for him was that he should bear witness that he took away none of the goods of the said manor place, and to see that a true inventory was made thereof. And afterwards the said Ralph, in the presence of this defendant and others, in peaceable manner went into as many of the chambers in the manor place as then were unlocked, and into no other, and there made a true inventory of all the goods of the said complainant in the chamber then unlocked, and this done the said defendant departed without moving or meddling with any of the goods of the said complainant.

*The answer of Ralph Thickyngs and Hugh Rogers to the bill of complaint of Henry Broke.*

As before.

*The answer of John Cowper.*

As before.

Vol. 6, fol. 142-145.

*Interrogatories for the part and behalf of Henry Broke to be ministered to Edward Walker, Ralph Thickyngs, William Egerton, Hugh Rogers, Thomas Broke, John Cowper, and William Renoldes.*

Whether you, Lawrence Roppe, John Bocher, Ralph Egerton, John Halle, John Cowper, John Hathersyche, John Donne, Charles Thickyngs, Robert Lee, Randall More, Humfrey Vyes, William Boulkeley, Robert Treckett, William Reynoldes, Ralph Bloure, Richard Weston,

John Henbery, Richard Boughey, William Paulmer, John Lawton, John Hassall, Hugh Rabon, and "Mathey" Smyth by meanes and procurement of Sir Edward Fytton, knight, or by any other means, about the 12th of July last assembled yourselves together at the dwelling house of the said William Egerton, called "Brydgende," riotously or otherwise, and then and there broke your fast and had a banquet then and there given you, or not. And how many of the same persons were there and what were their names, and what as the cause of your coming thither.

Whether the said Ralph Egerton after the breakfast was done took with him the said John Holle, John Hathersyche, John Cowper, John Donne, and John Bocher and went forth towards the manor of Wrynehill, co. Stafford, and desired all the other forenamed persons to come after them to the said manor, one mile distant. What weapons you then had with you.

Whether Ralph Egerton, John Holle, John Cowper, John Hathersyche, and John Donne were in the said manor place of Wrynehille the 12th of July last at such time as you the said Edward Walker, etc., came to the same manor, and what kind of weapons you had.

Whether the gates and doors of the said manor were shut and locked, or not, and whether the said Ralph Egerton, etc., did unlock the gates and doors and let you and all the riotous persons into the manor place. What were their names who entered, and what weapons they had.

Whether Ralph Egerton and you, or who, went into the chamber where Henry Broke always accustomed to lie, where was the most part of his treasure and jewels, and locked the door upon you, and you set four men with weapons to keep the same chamber door. Whether there were any things taken out of the chamber.

Whether the four men were not appointed to keep the door that none of Henry Broke's servants should not know what was done there, and what was done in the chamber and how many coffers and chests you or any of you did open and take away, and what you found in the same, and what things you took away, and to what place. Whether you broke open the stilling house door within the manor place.

Whether you the said Edward Walker or any with you "drownyd" the boat of the said Henry Broke being on the water in the mote about the said manor place.

Whether you sealed and locked up the doors of the manor place with four or five "porters or great sparres" and so kept the same day and night.

Whether you were one of them that drove stones into the locks of the gates and "sparryd" the same with bars of iron and other bars and "porters," and whether you kept any of the doors of the manor place, how many they were, and what weapons they had.

Whether you or any of you did forcibly or otherwise take the keys of the said Henry Broke from Ellen Hadersiche, then servant to the said Henry Broke, belonging to his coffers, and opened the coffers and chests. How many coffers were opened and what was in the same, and what was taken out.

Whether you or any of you did break open the coffer standing in the chapel of the manor and the "revestre" in the same chapel, and what took you out of the same.

Whether you drew down one George Stonawaye, by the feet and legs upon the back from the top of the "agryse" or "peyre" of stairs to the ground that his head hit on every step and put him in jeopardy of his life, or who did the same.

Whether you broke open a chamber door where two pheasants were and took the two pheasants and brought them to the said William Egerton's house and killed them and ate them. Who broke the lock?

Whether you broke open a chamber door in the same manor, called the "Corner Chambre," where James Bartram used to lie, and whether you took a "hand gone" in the same chamber.

Who struck Margaret Griffith on her arm with a dagger since the said 12th day and whether his dagger was left behind him. Who broke the hall window and came in thereat, and the walls in the spinney house.

Whether Sir Edward Fiton desired at any time the said William Egerton to maintain the said Ralph to enter upon the said manor and other lands of the said Henry Broke.

Whether Sir Edward Fiton himself or caused John Cowper to "inveggell" the said Ralph to enter upon the said manor, etc.

Whether the said Sir Edward causes John Cowper to "inveggell" the said Ralph that he shall not be in the keeping of the said Henry Broke.

19 November anno xxxviiij.

Edward Walker, of Mawdeley, co. Stafford, husbandman, sworn, etc.

Confesses that this deponent at the request of Ralph Egerton came to the house of William Egerton. There and then assembled Lawrence Rope, Randall More, Robert Lee, and Ralph Thickens and

there broke their fast together. He came thither to the intent to bear record that none of the plaintiff's goods should be carried away. Ralph Egerton departed before breakfast with John Cowper, his servant, to the manor of Wrynehill and sent for this deponent and the other persons to come to him. There were about ten persons having staves and no other weapons. Ralph Egerton desired the ten persons to bear record that none of the plaintiff's goods should be "there conveyed."

To the fourth. They entered the manor at the wicket. In the hall they found Ralph Egerton and John Cowper.

To the fifth. All the aforementioned persons saving John Hathersiche followed Ralph Egerton into the plaintiff's chamber. Denies that they locked the chamber door or set any person to keep the door. Ralph Egerton took an inventory of such goods as were in the chamber and took none away.

To the sixth. There were no chests broken open. Ralph Egerton sealed up the chests ; and looked into the chests that stood open, where was certain gear of the "noryse" (nurse) of the house.

To the seventh. Knows not of the breaking of any such stilling house door.

To the eighth. Knows not of any boat "drownyd."

To the ninth and tenth. Denies them and all the residue of these interrogatories to be true. Immediately upon the inventory so taken, this deponent and the other company, saving Ralph Egerton and John Cowper, departed.

William Egerton, of Betely, gentleman, sworn.

To the first to the seventh. Denies that he was present at the breakfast or at the assembly of persons there, nor was in company with Ralph Egerton at his first entry into the manor of Wrynehall, but was forty miles off. Denies these to be true.

To the eighth to the twelfth. Was not at the "drowning" of the boat nor at the sealing up of the locks, etc.

To the thirteenth. Knows not who dragged George Stoneaway.

To the fourteenth. Confesses that about four or five days after the first entry this deponent came home from Ludlowe, and upon his coming home he repaired to the said Ralph Egerton at Wrynehall two several days and broke the lock of the chamber door. Ralph Egerton and John Cowper took two pheasants and killed them and brought them to this deponent's house where they were eaten.

To the fifteenth. John Cowper broke open the "Corner Chamber" door, but whether he took any hand-gun he cannot tell.

To the sixteenth and seventeenth. Knows not who struck Margaret Griffithe nor who broke the hall window.

To the eighteenth. Denies that Sir Edward Fytton ever desired this deponent to aid Ralph Egerton in his entry.

To the nineteenth and twentieth. Knows nothing of the contents.

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CRYMES *v.* TAYLLOR.

Bundle 19, No. 65.

*The answer of William Tayllor to the bill of complaint of John Crymes.*

The said defendant saith that the said bill is untrue ; and that the 20th and 21st days of June, and long time before, the said William Tayllor and his wife were lawfully seised of one messuage, now in the occupation of the said William, and of certain lands with the appurtenances set and being in *Wetton*, containing 20 acres, in their demesne as of freehold, after the custom of the said manor of *Wetton*, for term of their lives and the longest liver of them, and the same did hold of the said manor, for the time being by copy of court roll of the manor of *Wetton* according to the custom of the said manor ; yielding and paying the yearly usual rent for the same of old time used and accustomed ; which said lease was made by the late prior of *Tutbury*, co. *Staff.*, the lord of the said manor, by copy of court roll, as by the copy of court roll of the said manor made to the said defendant and his wife, as more at large appears. Which said messuage, etc., are, and during the time whereof the memory of man is not to the contrary, have been parcel of the said manor of *Wetton* ; and have been demised and demisable by the lord of the manor for the time being, by his or their stewards of the said manor for the time being, for term of life or lives by copy of the court roll after the custom of the said manor. And the same defendant saith that the land and wood, called “ *Grene Beston*,” time whereof the memory of man is not to the contrary, was a ground not enclosed, but lying open, where as well the said defendant and all other tenants have at all times used the said pasture with all manner of beasts, as parcel of their farms to him and others severally demised by copy of court roll. And forasmuch as the same ground called “ *Grene Beston* ” was not enclosed, whereby “ *dyuers catal*s ” of the inhabitants of our towns did escape and come into the same ground and destroy yearly much of the grass of the same, the said complainants, within short time after that he had purchased the said manor of the said late King Henry VIII., did “ *purswade wyth* ” the said defendant and other

the inhabitants of the said manor that if they would enclose the said "Grene Beston" they "shuld and myght haue moche more profettes than if they to suffer yt to lye open"; and that he being lord of the manor was contented they so should do. Whereupon the said defendant and other the tenants, about five years last past caused the same ground to be enclosed with a wall of stones to their great cost and charge; and after used the same as they were accustomed to do; and the said defendants the said 20th and 21st day of June in peaceable manner did go unto a close, called "Erton," about his cattle, and overseeing his workfolk then and there being. The defendant denies that the said 20th day of June he did riotously assemble with any persons at Wetton.

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DALE v. ABBOT OF DIEULACRES.

Bundle 17, No. 5.

*To the King our sovereign Lorde.*

[Before 1539] "Moste humlie compleynyng showeth unto your Highnes your daylie Beiddman and pore subject John Dale of the parisshe of *Leke* wythin the Countie of Stafford husbondman admynstratour of the goodes and catalles of one Elizabeth Fowall of the same towne decessed." That whereas your poor orator was lawfully possessed of certain goods and chattels late the said Elizabeth's, to the use and intent to perform her said will, so it is that one "Dane" Thomas Whitteneý, abbot of the monastery of Dulacrise, of his great might and power, forcibly without any just title of right, about the 4th day of August last past did take from your orator two "kye" and a mare, price 4 marks, by colour for rent and reparation "beyng behynde of and for a mese" which the said Elizabeth held of the said abbot the time of her death, whereas of very truth there was none such due, nor any such reparations ought to be made. And also the said abbot with like force did take three oxen in the name of mortuaries contrary to the statute, that is to say, one ox after the death of the said Elizabeth, and other two oxen after the death of two of her children. Which children decessed in the life of "her" said mother, having no proper goods of their own. And also the said abbot did take and seize one other ox for a heriot after the death of the said Elizabeth, "where of verie trewth and right ther was none suche dewe nor ought to be paide." And forasmuch as your orator is a very poor man and not of power to sue the common law for his remedy, please your highness to grant your writ of *subpena* to be

directed to the abbot commanding him to appear before your highness and your Council to answer to the premises, "and your saide oratour shall daylie praye to Almyghtie God for your moste roiall estate longe to endure."

[Endorsed.] Before the Lord the King and his Council at Westminster, on the morrow of St. Martin next to come.

WYLOT *v.* ABBOT OF DIEULACRES.

*To the Kynge our sovereign Lord.*

Humbly complaining showeth unto your excellent highness your [1532<sup>1</sup>] daily orator Peter Wyllot, of *Heyton*, co. Stafford, that whereas one "Dan" William Alben, late abbot of the monastery of Dulacryse, co. Stafford, and the convent of the same, about twelve years past, made a lease and grant to your orator of certain lands called "the Fairbre ders," in Heyton, to hold during the life of your said orator, paying yearly the rent thereof due and accustomed. For the which lease your said orator paid to the abbot and convent £4. And after that the said abbot was deposed; after which one "Dan" Thomas Whytney was elected abbot, to whom your orator hath paid yearly the said rent of 4 marks by the space of ten years and more. And so it is, my honourable good Lord, that the said now abbot, of his covetous mind intending the utter impoverishment of your orator, his wife and children, hath made a new lease and grant of the said tenements to one Henry Brereton, his servant. Which Brereton, by the maintenance and "supportation" of the said abbot, doth not only disturb your said orator by the occupation of the said ground, but also hath commenced divers actions at the common law against him for the occupation of the same. Please your grace to grant your writs of injunction as well to the said abbot as to the said Brereton not only to suffer your orator peaceably to occupy his tenement and lease, but also hereafter to surcease the said suit and actions against him till such time that further direction be taken herein by your good lordship.

[Endorsed.] Before the Lord the King and Council, at Westminster, on the morrow of the Purification next.

*The answer of Thomas Whitney to the bilu of complaint of Peter Wyllott.*

The said late abbot was seised of the said lands, called "the Feyerbyroughs," in his demesne as of fee as in right of his said

<sup>1</sup> See Vol. X, New Series, p. 140.

monastery and demised the same to one Hugh Wyllott, father to the said complainant, to hold at the will of the same late abbot, and afterwards the said abbot was deposed and the said defendant elected abbot. And afterwards the said Hugh died, after whose death the said complainant occupied the premises at the will of the said defendant.

*The answer of Henry Brereton.*

One Thomas, now abbot of Dalacres, 22 Henry VIII. demised the premises to the said defendant from the Feast of our Blessed Lady for thirty-nine years.

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GROSVENOUR *v.* LEVESON.

Vol. 16, fol. 330-332.

*To the King.*

[1537<sup>21</sup>] Complaining sheweth unto your grace your daily orators and faithful subjects John Grosvenour, of the Middle Temple, and Thomas Moreton, of "Strounde Inne," two of the Justices of your peace in your county of Stafford, that whereas about Bartholomew's Day twelvemonth your said orators and one Walter Wrottesley, esquire, another justice of the peace of the same shire were required to set and inquire of certain riots and other misdemeanours in the said shire, supposed to be committed and made; by reason whereof we your said orators "because wee were next and the seid Walter accordynge to the statute therof made and provyded satte at *Wolverhampton* within your seid Countie of Stafford where at the same tyme were putte oure handes dyverse billes of trespas aswell agenest one Thomas Leveson of the same towne, gentilman, as agenest dyverse other persons." The which Thomas Leveson being present in the Court "wold not scantly suffer evidens to be gyffen for your grace, but interupted them that dyd gyve evidence, and seid if he hadde bewarre he wold have made billes agenest them in lykewise." And we seid to him he should have time convenient if he would. And after we had charged the "queste," and as well the plaintiffs as the said Thomas Leveson and all other defendants had given their evidence, we caused the inquest to be put in a house, and one Roger Alyn, then bailiff there, was charged to keep them, the which bailiff locked the inquest in the said house and came to hie us to dinner, and in the latter end of our dinner we were informed that the said Thomas Leveson had broken the door and was gone into the "queste" to give evidence then and there against your grace; and thereuppon we commanded an officer of your grace's to go to them and

<sup>1</sup> See p. 40.



command him in your name to come from the inquest and to come and speak with us, and he then came from the inquest; but he said he had nothing to do with us, and so would not come "at" us. By reason of which demeanour we awarded against him a warrant "of gud aberyng," and commanded the under-sheriff to serve it. The which serving the said Thomas Leveson disobeyed, and commanded the under-sheriff he should not lay his hand on him; and set his hand upon his dagger, and that then the under-sheriff, not being able to do his office, required us to assist him, and so we and the constable there assisted him to do his office, when we had many vile words and great "crakkes," saying that we should be brought before your grace's Council. And we said that your grace's Council should know of his misdemeanour and so took from him his dagger; and then the under-sheriff and the Constable took him by the arms and would have led him down a stair, but he in no wise would go with them but by force. And as he went down the said stair he drew a long knife out of his "dagger seythe" and struck at the said Constable so that he fell down the stair, or else he had like to have slain him. And all this while the Jury were there ready to give their verdict, and we could not take it for his unreasonable demeanour. And yet he therewith [was] not satisfied but sat down on the cross in the midst of the town and there sat with the under-sheriff like the space of a quarter of an hour and more and his knife drawn in his hand backward ready to have stricken at his pleasure, and in no wise would go with the under-sheriff nor submit himself till it was night, and then with the instance of the under-sheriff he put in surety himself in £20, and two sureties with him in £10 either of them to be at the next Sessions and to be of good demeanour in the mean season. And to the Sessions he came, but he departed without licence or putting in of any sureties to our knowledge. Wherefore he and his sureties have forfeited £40 to your grace's highness.

*The answer of Thomas Lewson, gentleman, to the bill of complaint of John Gravenour and Thomas Moreton.*

The bill is untrue and the matter therein contained is grounded only upon malice procured and "stered" by one James Lewson to the intent to "fatigate, vex, and inquiet," the defendant in such wise that he should relinguish a good and sure lease to him made of certain lands and tenements by one James Byng. And the said defendant saith that one Walter Lewson, father to the said defendant, was seised in his demesne as of fee of one half acre of land in Wolverhampton, and the said Walter died seised thereof. After whose decease the premises

descended to the said defendant as son and heir to the said Walter. By force whereof the said defendant took the profits by the space of twenty years and more. And about two years last past and more the said Gravenour of his malicious mind did enter into the said half acre and by great violence took the corn of the said defendant there growing. And yet the said Gravenour not thus contented, at the next Sessions in the same shire, whereof the said John Gravenour was then one of them and did sit at the same Sessions, did exhibit a bill of indictment of trespass against the said defendant for the occupation of the said half acre, and the said Gravenour sitting still upon the Bench did give evidence to the jury and would not suffer the defendant to open the truth of his title to the same half acre. And after the jury heard their charge and were charged to go together into a howse to make their verdict, the said jury being in a house nigh thereunto, one John a Stoke being one of the jury let the defendant come within the door of the same house to the intent to give to them evidence concerning divers trespasses done by the wife and servants of the said Gravenour upon certain other lands of the defendant. Upon which evidence the jury might have had sufficient matter and knowledge to make a perfect verdict and indictment of the same. At his departing from the jury the said Gravenour, fearing lest the misdemeanour of the same Gravenour should be openly known, did cause one of the King's bailiffs to come to the defendant to require him to come to the said Justices, and the defendant answered that he was content to appear before them when they had dined, and make answer, and according to his promise came to the Sessions. "And then the said Gravenour beyng replenysshed with over myche ale and wyne and without eny discrecion or cause reasonable" did command the defendant to find surety "of his goodaberyng ageynst all the Kynges leche peple," and would not declare to the defendant any cause or offence by him done. And that notwithstanding the defendant proffered to have found surety for keeping the peace, but the said Justices would not be contented therewith, but command one [ ] Mynours, then under-sheriff, to put the defendant into "holde of gayoll" untill he had found surety for good bearing. And as the defendant did stand in peaceable manner before the Justices, the under-sheriff and one Morton did take the dagger of the defendant from him, and by the turning of the sheath one meat-knife did fall out upon the ground, and the defendant took it up in peaceable manner, but how he held it he perfectly knows not, and then departed with the under-sheriff down the stairs in peaceable manner, and if the Constable fell, as this defendant doth not remember

any such matter, it was not done through any malice of the defendant. And the defendant further saith that the under-sheriff brought the defendant to the cross and there they did abide at the desire of the defendant that the defendant might get his surety. And after their departing the Justices took the verdict of the Jury, and then and there the defendant put in sureties to his great danger, costs and charges. At the next General Sessions the defendant personally appeared before Sir Anthony Fitz Herbert, Knight, one of the King's Justices of his Common Bench at Westminster, and other the King's Justices of Peace in the said county, at which Sessions the said defendant and his sureties were clearly discharged of the said bonds and set at large, because it appeared that it was done upon malice and without cause reasonable. [*Traverses the rest of the bill.*]

*The replication of John Gravenour and Thomas Moreton.*

The bill is true and the matter therein contained not grounded on any malice. And furthermore they say that one Hogettes required Walter Wrottesley, esquire, and the said John Gravenour to appoint a Sessions to inquire of a riot made upon him by one Skarsborow and Pereson, as the said Hogettes then informed them. Whereupon the said John Gravenour and Walter Wrottesley appointed a Sessions to inquire of the said riot. Whereupon the said John Gravenour and Walter Wrottesley and the said Thomas Moreton sat at Wolverhampton about the time mentioned in the bill. And whereas the said Thomas Lyveson untruly in his answer saith that there were no more bills put to their hands, there were put divers bills as well against the said Thomas Lyveson as against others, and part of them were found, to wit, a bill against the said Hogettes, and the said bill of the said John Gravenour against the said Thomas Lyveson. For the title of the land specified in the answer the said John Gravenour saith that one Rose Cleyton, widow, was seised in her demesne as of fee tail of "too dayes erth of errable land, a days mathe of medow and too hedde landes" in Wolverhampton, of which one "hedde lande," the place in variance, is parcel, and gave the premises to the said John Gravenour and Rose, his wife, one of the daughters and heirs of the said Rose Cleyton, in tail, according to the old course of inheritance. By force whereof the said John and Rose were seised thereof till the said Thomas Lyveson "dyd" the trespass. And upon the which headland there is a certain "gret forlonge of errable lande, for the more part shottyng and abutting at the over ende by estymacion conteynyng xvj deys erth or more," and in the midst of the said furlong the said Thomas Lyveson hath certain

lands abutting on the said headland. And the said Thomas Lyveson "to have a quarell to the seid John Gravenour hath caused his servantes to plow his landes unto the toppe of the seid hedde lande and also to make gutters over the toppe of the seid hedde lande," by reason whereof the waters running down the furrows of his said headland run into the meadow of the said John Gravenour and "standeth" his meadow to his great hurt, and all other men having land on both sides of Lyveson's lands and abutting also on the said headland turn up at the side of the said headland. And because the said Lyveson had sown his corn on the land of the said John Gravenour the said Gravenour commanded his servants peaceable to take it for "damage fesaunt," and for which trespass the said Gravenour presented a bill to the other Justice, and standing on his feet "of and from" the Bench, was sworn and gave evidence, and not sitting. For which trespass the said Gravenour hath an action of trespass hanging at issue against the said Thomas Lyveson in the Common Pleas, which he will try in the country.

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LAWTON *v.* BROKE.

Bundle 17, No. 178.

*To the Kinge our most drede soveragn Lord.*

In most humble wise beseecheth your excellent majesty, your poor and obedient subject Thomas Lawton, that whereas Sir William Brereton, knight, and dame Elianor, his wife, were seised in their demesne as of freehold in right of the said Elianor of one messuage and 20 acres of land, meadow and pasture in *Betley*, co. Stafford, as parcel of the jointure of the said Elianor, of the gift of Randall Egerton, esquire, brother and heir of John Egerton, esquire, being first husband of the said Elianor,<sup>1</sup> the said Sir William in June last demised and set the said premises to your said subject from the Feast of St. Michael last past for one year, and so from year to year during the pleasures of both the said parties. So it is, gracious Lord, that your said subject the first day of October last past in peaceable and quiet manner entered into the premises. At which time John Lawton, the elder, John Lawton, the younger, John Bocher, William Lawton, and Thomas Lawton being riotously assembled together with divers riotous and evil disposed persons, to the number of twenty and above to your said subject unknown, with swords, bucklers, bills, staves and other unlawful weapons,

<sup>1</sup> Eleanor, widow of John Egerton of Wrimehill, *d.* 1518, was a *daughter* of Sir R. Brereton.

by the commandment of Henry Broke, esquire, did not only enter into the said messuage and other the premises and expel your said subject but also put on the premises certain cattle and beasts of the said Broke. And the said malefactors did not only let and disturb your said subject from distraining the said beasts for "damage fesaunt" on the said land but also with "faceng and braceng countenances threttened and marased your said subject and his servantes so that they for fere of their lyves were glad to avoyde from the seid land."

*The answer of Henry Broke.*

As to any riot, etc., he is not thereof guilty. The matters in the bill are determinable by the common law.

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SNEYD *v.* BRETT.

(Edward VI.) Bundle 3, No. 35.

*To the King our sovereign Lord.*

Most lamentably complaining unto your highness your subject Sir [1549] William Sneyde, of Bradwall, co. Staff., knight, that whereas your said subject is seised of and in the manor of *Kele*, lying in the said county, in his demesne as of fee, and the tenants dwelling within the said lordship have, out of time of man's mind to the contrary not known, and yet do hold their lands, lying within the said lordship, of the lord of the said manor by copy of Court Roll, after the custom of the said manor; which said manor is a "Fraunches Rial,"<sup>1</sup> having many privileges as well by prescription as by grant of the king's most noble progenitors as "retorna brevium, weif, streiff, ward," marriage, relief and escheat, and amongst other things the custom of the said manor is, and always heretofore has been out of time of mind, that when any of the lords of the manor have received the king's letters or otherwise been commanded to prepare themselves with their power and strength or with tenants and servants to attend upon your grace, within his realm as also without, that then the tenants of the said manor, as also the resiants, at the commandment of the lord of the manor, should attend upon his person, or other ways serve under him, the King our sovereign lord, where he or they should be thereunto appointed, which always was by a long "conteynnaunce" practised, frequented and used in the time of the lords of St. John of Jerusalem in England when they were lords of the

<sup>1</sup> Royal Franchise.

said manor as also in the time of other lords before them being owners of the said manor ; until now of late, about two months past your said orator receiving letters from the Earl of Warwick to furnish and prepare himself with his power for the wars against the king's rebels at Norwich,<sup>1</sup> which according to the contents of the said letters and his most bounden duty endeavoured himself therein to the uttermost of his power and came to one Edward Bratt, in the same county, gent., who is tenant to your said orator and holdeth certain houses and a great quantity of land within the said manor of your said subject, by copy, after the custom of the manor, as also to one John Smyth, Richard Brown, John Cowdale and John Belson, dwelling within the said Lordship, knowing them to be able men, requiring them upon their allegience to prepare themselves to go with your said subject, to serve your grace in that voyage, to attend upon the said Lord of Warwick ; which to do and accomplish the persons before named plainly refused and denied, and in most riotous manner with arrogant and terrible words, assembled themselves together arraied in manner of war to resist your said subject, who perceiving their unlawful assembly, for fear of further inconvenience to have ensued in that perilous time did nor would any more further withstand them or meddle therein, but peaceably departed from them. In consideration whereof may it please your Majesty to grant and direct several writs of *subpena* against the said Edward and the residue abovenamed.

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BRADBOURNE v. MEN OF LONGNOR.

Bundle 26, No. 155.

*The joynt and seuerall answers of Roger Woode, William Mylward, Robert Sladen, George Howme, Robert Gilmyne, Homfrie Smythe, Richarde Cheshiere and others, defendants, to the surmised bill of complaint of Sir Homfry Bradbourne, knyght, John Draycote, and Vincent Mundy, complainants.*

The said defendants say that the bill is untrue, and that as to any riot, the said Roger Woode, William Mylward and Humphrey Smythe are not guilty, and with George Howme and Robert Gylmyne say that parcel of ground, called "Fawfeild Hill," in the parish of *Austonfield* is a certen waste ground and common wherein the said defendants together with all the inhabitants to the number of one hundred and their predecessors before them dwelling in Longnour, being within the said

<sup>1</sup> 1549.

parish of Austonfeild, have always had and used to have and take time out of mind of man at their will and pleasure common of pasture for all manner of cattle, and to "digge, grave" and take "turfs" in and upon the same for their fuel to be spent in their houses; which was never before molested, until about twenty-six years past. And now the said George Howme, being tenant unto Sir John Savage, knight, and Robert Gilmyne, being tenant unto one Robert Nedejan, esquire, which defendants, "inhabiting" in Longnour, by the commandment of their landlords, 25 Ap., went unto the said parcel, called "Fawfield Hill," without any company, having with them two hooks called "mucke crombes," and there finding ditches newly erected by the said complainants, threw down the manure off the said dikes and banks again, being unlawful; also one gate which they the said complainants had also there in the high way newly set up.

*The replication of Sur Humfrey Brodborne, knyght, John Draycott and Vyncent Mundy, esquires, complainants to the aunsweres of Roger Wood, William Mylward, George Howme, Robert Gylman ana Humfrey Smyth, defendauntes.*

The said complainants do aver as in the said bill, and further that the said ground, called "Fauilde hill," is and hath been demised and demisable by copy of court roll of the said manor of Aulstonfild by the space of three score years past.

Bundle 20, No. 192.

*Interrogatories to be ministered on the part of Sir Humphrey Brodborne, knight, John Draycott, and Vincent Monday, esquires, against Roger Woode, William Mylwood, George Howme, Robert Gylmyn and Humphrey Smith.*

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LANE v. WHITMORE.

Bundle 20, No. 163.

*Interrogatories to be ministered to Robert Whitmore upon the contents of a bill of complaint exhibited against him, before the King and his Council in the Star Chamber at Westminster by John Lane, gent., whereupon as well the said Robert Whytmore as the witnesses for the part of the said John Lane are to be examined.*

[After 1536] Whether one Ralph Lane, esquire, grandfather of John Lane, was seised in his demesne as of fee of one messuage, called the "Signe of the Swawne," and a garden thereunto belonging and of one orchard containing one acre lying in Wolverhampton, co. Staff., and died thereof seised or not. Whether the premises descended to Richard Lane, father of John Lane, as son of Ralph Lane or not. Whether Richard Lane assigned the same to Joyce his mother and late wife of Ralph Lane (*and other interrogatories*).

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LYTTELTON *v.* WILLOWGTHBY.

Bundle 17, No. 156.

*The answer of Huyghe Willowgthby to the byll of complaynt off Edwarde Lyttelton, esquier.*

The land named in the said bill is holden by Copy of Court Roll of the Lord Audeley as of his manor of *Audeley*, co. Stafford, to the which pasture and land the said Heugh was admitted tenant by the custom of the said manor after the death of John Eggerton, the elder, "as next cosyn and heyre" of the said John.

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BARNES *v.* WOOD, ETC.

Bundle 20, No. 195.

*Interrogatories to be ministered unto witnesses on the behalf of Ralph Warrelowe, Thomas Briscove, Francis Cradocke, and Robert Awsten, defendants, against William Barnes, complainant.*

[After 1544] 1. Whether you know the defendants, and where they dwell, and if any of them willingly committed perjury?

2. Whether they be such poor men as do stand in need or be "endaugered" any way unto John Awston in the matter wherein heretofore the said defendants have deposed, so that by reason thereof they or any of them should be induced either by favor, affection or by fear to make a false oath?

3. Whether you know a heath called "Lightwood heathe" alias "Meare heathe," lying between *Nermacote and Blurton*?

4. Whether the bounds and meres of Normacote be notoriously known, and whether you know the same round about, or only the bounds dividing Normacote and Stone from Blurton and Trentham, and what the same bounds be called?



5. Whether the mill called "Woodesmill," standing upon the same heath, be within the parish of Stone, and how far doth the same stand within Stone.

6. Whether you knew a "Blome smithy" of John Woodes, standing upon the said heath beneath the mill upon the same water running from the same mill, and how long the mill hath stood there, and how long since it was destroyed, and how and by whom?

7. Whether you know a brook called "Blurton Brook,"<sup>1</sup> and whether it is known for a mere betwixt Normacote and Stone and Trentham and Blurton?

8. Whether you know a place upon the said heath called "Copt hurst,"<sup>1</sup> and whether it be in Normacote and Stone?

9. Whether you knew that James Awsten, deceased, father to John Awsten, under Robert Awsten, grandfather to the said John, and father to James, built a "cote" or "haye howse" upon "Copt hurst"?

10. Whether the said Robert Awsten and James Awsten and Robert Awsten, son of James, brother to John, used during their lives to occupy at their pleasure, and keep their sheep there from time to time?

11. Whether the said Robert Awsten, the grandfather, and Robert his son did "euer use to gett turves" upon the said "Copte hurst" or the valley adjoining thereunto?

12. Whether any other of the tenants of Normacote "have likewise used" to get "trowse" there, and what were their names?

13. Whether you know and how long you have known a deed that bound Normacote; and whether you ever heard the same read upon the heath by whom and how often?

14. Whether you ever knew the lord of Normacote accompanied with his servants did ever walk the meres?

15. What other things can you say?

*Interrogatories to be ministered to John Wood on the behalf of Ralph Warrelowe, Thomas Briscowe, Francis Cradocke, and Robert Awsten.*

1. Whether was there a day given in the spiritual Court at Lichefield to hear sentence in a matter then depending between the Lady Levison plaintiff, and John Wood, defendant, concerning the demand of four pence by year out of "Woodes myll," and whether had you knowledge thereof?

2. Whether you did go or send to Lichfield on the said day?

3. What was the cause that you absented yourselves from Lichfield the same day?

<sup>1</sup> Blurton Brook and Copshurst are now entirely within Blurton and Trentham.

John Wood of Meare, co. Staff. yeoman, of the age of seventy-five years, saith that to the first and second interrogatories he cannot certainly depose.

To the last he saith that there was a suit between the Lady Leveson and this deponent concerning four pence a year out of the said mill for a tithe, about nine years last past,<sup>1</sup> this deponent having spent much money in that suit for "avoydyng of" his further expenses willed Mr. Dyott and Henry Waring to move the Chancellor that he would yield to pay the four pence a year if he might be spared in the costs. Whereupon promise was made, and thereupon this examinee suffered the said sentence to be given, and yielded to pay the said four pence a year, wherefore he hath held the said mill twenty years, and paid no tithe for the same.

2. Ralph Warrelowe, of Beamehurse, co. Staff., yeoman, of the age of fifty years, saith that Ralph Warrelowe and Robert Austyn "be of good substance."

4. Saith that the meres dividing Normecote and Stone from Blourton and Trentham begin at a brook called "Blourton Broke" and so ascending the same brook to "Deep Sloughe," and from "Deep Sloughe" to "Heathye Lee," and so to a ditch deviding Normycote from land of the Lord Stafford.<sup>2</sup>

5. "Woodes Mylle" standeth within the parish of Stone, "two flight shote" from "Blourton Broke."

6. The "blome smythie" of John Woods was decayed about ten years past, and it was first "gated" by the said Wood by the right of one Mister Gifford.

8. "Coppehurst" is within Normecote and Stone.

9. Saith that he knew that James Austen, deceased, builded a cote or "hayehouse" upon "Copte hurst" and he thinketh the cause of the decay to be for that after the death of the said James, Robert Austen his son "provyng not so thriftie," had not so much cattle.

10. Robert Austen and James Austen, Robert Austen son of James, late brother to John used to crop hollies, willows, and trowse, and to feed their sheep there in the winter time.

11. Robert Austen the grandfather, and Robert, his son, used to get turves in the valley of "Cophurst."

12. James Warrelowe, of Normecote, and Thomas, his son, father to Thomas Warrelowe, did likewise.

<sup>1</sup> *I.e.*, date of suit is subsequent to 1544, or the Levesons got Trentham Priory in 1535.

<sup>2</sup> *I.e.*, in Barlaston.

13. The deed should be in the hands of John Woodes.

4. Robert Hunt, of Longton, co. Staff., of the age of fifty-four, saith that a Brook called "Blourton broke" is one of the meres between Normecote and Blourton, and knoweth the same to be true, for that he heard a deed read, witnessing the same, and also by common report of the country.

12. Thomas Warrelowe, William Palyour, and Thomas Bolde, tenants of Normycote, used to get turves near "Coptehurst."

13. He heard a deed read upon the same heath twice or thrice, that bounded out the lordship of Normecote, about 20 years past, by Roger Caleshall, clerk to Mr. Gyfford.

14. He knew one Sir Thomas Gyfford, late Lord of Normecote,<sup>1</sup> with his tenants, about twenty years past did walk the bounds of the said lordship, by the said deed.

Roger Foxe, of Stoke, co. Staff., yeoman, of the age of fifty-six years (*deposes much as Robert Hunt*).

Roger Wright, of Fulford, co. Staff., yeoman, of the age of seventy-four, saith as Robert Foxe.

4. The meres of Normecote be as follows, viz., "Withye Lane" and thence to "Whore Ston," and so down after "Whitewall" unto "Blourton Broke," and from thence to "Lynne Hurst," alias "Deptehurst," and so to "Depe Cloughe," and thence to "Hethey Lee," alias "Hethey Slade," and then to a place called "Duble Dytche," and so to "Appletre Slade," and thence to "Pertree Lane," and so to "Blythe Fourde," and thence to "Hyndes Wall," and so through the mere, and so to "Withie Lane" again.

John Hankynson, of Buckenall, co. Staff., yeoman, of the age of fifty-seven years, saith as Robert Hunt.

Thomas Astbury, of Meare, co. Staff., blacksmith, of the age of sixty saith as Roger Wright.

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BLOUNT *v.* CHETWYND.

Bundle 20, No. 193.

*The answer of Thomas Chetwyn to the bill of complaint of Sir George Blunte, knight.*

The said defendant saith that true it is that the said complainant is seised of an estate of inheritance of the same manor of *Hopton*, and that the said common or waste ground called "Hopton Owtwood," is parcel of the said manor, containing 80 acres. And he is lawfully seised in his

<sup>1</sup> The only "Sir Thos. Gyfford, late Lord of Normacot," died in 1560. Is it possible this Roll belongs to Elizabeth's reign?

demesne as of fee tail, descended from his ancestors, of and in the manor of Ingestre, co. Staff. And further saith that Humphrey Foxe, William Leytit and others to the number of twelve, did repair to the said common and did there plough. Wherefore the said defendant sent two of his servants commanding them to forbid the said Humphrey Foxe.

*The replication of Sir George Blunt, knight, to the answer of  
Thomas Chetwyn.*

The said Sir George saith that it was not lawful for Thomas Chetwyn to send his servants to stop Humphrey Foxe and the others from ploughing.

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BLOUNT *v.* DRAYCOT, ETC.<sup>1</sup>

Bundle 17, No. 220.

*To the King our most dread sovereign Lord.*

In most humble wise complaining showeth unto your Highness your most humble subjects and daily orators, Walter Blounte, gentleman, and Mary, his wife, that whereas your said oratrix being in your peace at her mansion called "*Blountes Hall*," co. Stafford, one George Draycott, gentleman, John Trewen, of Draycott, John Foxe, William Smythe, James Wrighte, all of the same, Richard Barlowe, of Uttceture, cook, William Tayller, yeoman, William Flyare, shoemaker, Robert Alsope, shoemaker, William Holbrocke, shoemaker, Randyll Bradshawe, mercer, William Fytzherberte, gentleman, William More, butcher, William Mastyen, tailor, Richard Teyllor, "bocher," all of Uttceture, with divers other riotous persons to the number of forty and more arrayed with swords, bucklers, bills, staves, and knives, the 12th day of July last, at Utcetture, assembled themselves together, and from thence came to a certain ground of your orators' called "*Dame rydlyng*," and the hedges of your said orators' there standing with force did break, and upon your said oratrix Mary Blounte and two of her servants made assault, and them did beat, wound and evilly entreat, whereby they were in great danger of their lives. And furthermore the said riotous persons with like force did lead and carry away four loads of hay of your said orator's standing in "*Coyelle*" ready to be carried upon a parcel of ground of your said orator's, which your said orator had recovered by a writ of *Cessavit* in your Common Pleas, at Westminster, against one Thomas Newell and Dorothy, his wife. May it please your highness to grant your writ of *Subpena* to be directed to the said riotous persons commanding them to appear before your highness and your Council to answer to the premises.

<sup>1</sup> See Vol. X, New Series, p. 131.

*The answer of George Drecotte and John Treuen.*

As to anything against the peace, they be thereof not guilty. As to "Damrydyng" and taking four loads of hay, the said defendants say that they know not of any such Recovery. The said Thomas and Dorothy had nothing in the same at the time of the Recovery. Long before the said riot it was found by an Escheator's inquest, in,co. Stafford, that one Thomas Kenersley, "squier," was seised of "Damerydyng" amongst other lands in the same county in his demesne as of fee and held the same of our said King by knight service, and that one Thomas Kenersley was his cousin and next heir, that is to wit, son of John Kenersley, son to the said Thomas, the father, and that the said Thomas, the younger, was within the age of twenty-one years, that is to wit, of the age of twelve years. Therefore one Sir Philip Drecott, knight, being feodary in the said shire, entered into the said meadow ground and seised the same and also the body of the said Thomas Kenersley, the younger, as the King's ward. And forasmuch as the said Thomas is yet within age, the said George Dracotte and John Treven the 20th of July last, as servants to the said Sir Philip Dracotte and by his commandment entered into the said premises and took away the said four loads.

Bundle 20, No. 112.

*Interrogatories administered on behalf of Blunt.*

George Draycot, of Paynsley, co. Staff., gent., sworn, etc.

Richard Barlowe was tenant of ground called "Dannerydyng" in the life-time of John Kynnersley.

John Treven, servant to George Draycot, saith that Barlowe paid his rent to Kynnersley.

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WODCOKE v. ALSOP.

Bundle 19, No. 287.

*To the King our sovereign Lord.*

Sheweth John Wodcok, that whereas he was intending to live in your peace, one Richard Alsop, of Loxley, co. Staff., yeoman, John Alsop, of the same, husbandman, Thomas Barton, of the same, labourer, with divers others, at *Kynston*, co. Staff., 23rd Sept. last, did "lye in aweyth to the intent" to murder your said orator, and did riotously assault him and "meymed" one of his arms.

*The answer of Richard Alsoppe and John Alsoppe, his son,  
to the bill of complaint of Thomas Wodcok.*

Say that the bill is untrue; and long time before the 23rd Sept., one Thomas Kynnesley, of Loxley, co. Staff., squire, was seised in his demesne, as of fee of 6 acres of land in Kynston, the aforesaid 23rd Sept. demised and let the aforesaid land to Richard Alsoppe; and the aforesaid 23rd day the said Richard and John found the "lesse" of the said Thomas in the said 6 acres depasturing the grass there; and the said Richard and John drove the "lesse" to the common fold. And Thomas Wodcok, on "Rasse Cowhoppe" did meet, and made assault upon, the said Richard and John.

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DYNGLEY *v.* BEAMONT.

Bundle 19, No. 101.

*This is the answer of John Beamont, esquire, to the bill of complaint  
of Roger Dyngley and Thomas Ryse.*

[1531<sup>1</sup>] John Beamont saith that the bill is untrue, and that as to any riot "he is therof no thyng gyltey," moreover the day in the said bill supposed he was at the town of *Walsale*, at which time the affray was made the said John went into the street to know more thereof.

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MADELEY *v.* FITZHERBERT.

Bundle 18, No. 323.

[1518<sup>2</sup>] John Fitzherbert, esquire, examined on the bill of complaint of John Madeley, saith that it is true that he was bound by recognisance, and also it was enjoined by the Council to him in the behalf of the said John Madeley as in the bill of complaint, now made by the same John is contained. Albeit he saith that after that, by reason of a letter that the late Lord Marquis sent unto Sir Robert Lytton, the son of Robert, counselled his kinsman, John Madeley, to assent to the cancelling of the said recognisance, and so by express assent of the same John Madeley the same recognisance was cancelled. And so it appeareth cancelled of record in the King's Chancery. So it is that now the said John Madeley being sore sick and diseased so far that he was not like to recover, this deponent willing in his mind that the said John Madeley

<sup>1</sup> See Vol. X, New Series, p. 80.

<sup>2</sup> See Vol. X, New Series, p. 75.

should not die seised of the land that this debate is for, before Midsummer last past made a deed of feoffment of the said land to his son and heir, named Nicholas Fitzherbert, of the age of 16 years and more, with letters of attorney to Thomas Russel and John Dawkyn to "sease" his son in the said lands, the said John Madeley then and yet living. And this he did, as he saith, for that he would not that he or his heirs, if the said John Madeley died, should not die so seised that the entry of his son Nicholas should be taken away. Wherefore the said Nicholas entered peaceably and lawfully at Midsummer last.

*Item* : he saith that he supposed that when the recognisance was by assent of the parties cancelled, that the injunction had been also void.

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BARNES *v.* TAYLOUR AND MYNOURS.

Bundle XVIII, No. 63.

*To the King our sovereign Lord.*

"Pitously" complaining showeth unto your most excellent majesty [1535  
 your daily oratrix and most humble subject Alice Barnes, widow, that *or*  
 whereas one Thomas Worth, father to your said oratrix, whose heir she *1541.*]  
 is, was seised in fee of one messuage in *Stromshilfe*, co. Stafford, and  
 died seised. After whose death your said oratrix was thereof seised in  
 her demesne as of fee, and hath taken the profits thereof for sixty years,  
 till now of late one Richard Teylour, of Uttcetour, "bocher," caused a  
 strange woman to make title to the same messuage and lands, "and  
 afftour bought her titill of and to the same mease and landes for a white  
 peticote and a peyre of shose," and by colour thereof through the main-  
 tenance and subornation of one Humfrey Myners, gentleman, being  
 under-sheriff of the same county, did not only riotously and with force  
 enter into the said ground and there hath distrained the beasts and  
 cattle of the tenants of your said oratrix, but also falsely procured your  
 said oratrix to be indicted of forcible entry. Unto which indictment  
 your oratrix did "tende" a traverse before the Justices of your peace.  
 Upon which traverse twelve men were sworn, of the which twelve men  
 eleven were agreed to give their verdict for your oratrix that she was not  
 guilty of any such entry with force. And the twelfth juror whom the  
 said under-sheriff "had crafttely put yn to his said paynell for maintenance,  
 which was one of those persones which had before soo untruly indytyd  
 your said poore oratrice, and for that cause the said juror said that he  
 wold never passe contrary to his said further verdet," and thereupon

the said juror was discharged. And after that the said traverse was abated for misleading. Whereupon the said Justices awarded a writ of restitution to put the said Telour into possession. And your said oratrix perceiving that tendered a new traverse before your said Justices, and the Justices granted a *Supersedeas* to the sheriff to stay the execution of the writ of restitution. Which your oratrix delivered to his said under-sheriff. And that notwithstanding the said under-sheriff sent one Roger Benston, his "bayly errant," and one Thomas Crosse, Randall Bradshawe, Richard Stanlowe and others with force and arms to put the said Teyllour into possession. Which said persons with the said Teyllour in forcible manner the 16th of October last past came to the same house and the doors of the same did break and cast down, and the tenant of your said oratrix, his wife and four children "wherof beyng sycke in their beddes moste violently dyd expell, caste and put furthe." Please your Highness to grant your writs of *Subpena* to be directed to the said riotous persons commanding them to appear before your majesty and your Council to answer to the premises, and further to enjoin the said Teyllour to suffer your oratrix to occupy and enjoy her said lands unto such time as the title be discussed before your highness and your Council.

*The answer of Richard Tayllour for himself, Roger Benson, Thomas Crosse, Randoll Bradshawe and Richard Standlowe.*

The bill of complaint is uncertain, untrue, etc. One John Harper was lawfully seised in his demesne as of fee of the messuage mentioned in the bill. After whose decease the premises descended to one William Harper as son and heir. After whose death the premises descended to one Isabella as daughter and heir to the said William. Which Isabell entered into the premises after the decease of her father, and for £20 and other commodities and pleasures, by her deed enfeoffed the defendant of the premises; to have and to hold to him and to his heirs for ever; by force whereof he was seised of the premises and took the profits thereof till such time as the complainant, one John More, and Roger Taylour with force "expulsydde" him. For which forcible entry, upon complaint made to the Justices of peace, the complainant, John More, and Roger Taylour were indicted at the Sessions held at Stafford the Tuesday after Epiphany last past. Upon which indictment the said Richard Taylour prayed restitution according to the Statute. Notwithstanding, forasmuch as there was then a traverse put to the said indictment the said Richard at that time could



have no writ of restitution, but the Justices awarded a *venire facias* returnable at the next Quarter Sessions. By force whereof at the said Sessions holden at Stafford on Tuesday next after Low Sunday, one Sir Edward Aston, sheriff of the county,<sup>1</sup> of his own mind and without any procuring of Humphry Mynors or any other, returned a panel before the said Justices, and thereupon eleven were sworn. The next Quarter Sessions, at Stafford, on Tuesday next after Holy Trinity, the said Richard Tayllour on the King's behalf desired that the complainant might be demanded to follow her traverse, which she refused utterly to do. Whereupon the said Richard demanded restitution of the premises upon the said indictment, but in nowise could he obtain the writ of restitution at that time. By force whereof at the Quarter Sessions holden at Stafford on Tuesday after the Feast of St. Michael last, the said Richard Tayllour by his counsel desired restitution, which the Justices granted, and the said defendant was put in possession of the premises by the said Roger Benson who had a precept to do the same. And for execution thereof the said Benson commanded one Thomas Crosse, Randoll Bradshawgh, and Richard Stanlowe to aid him. By reason whereof the said Thomas Crosse, etc., in quiet manner put the said defendant in possession.

*The answer of Humfrey Mynors.*

To the same effect as Richard Tayllour's answer.

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DENSTONES *v.* HEYWOOD.

Bundle XVIII, No. 24.

*To the King our most dread sovereign Lord.*

In most humble wise complaining showeth your oratrix Jone Denstones, widow, that whereas your said oratrix is tenant to the Mayor and burgesses of *Newcastell*, co. Stafford, of a messuage in the said town, one John Heywood, of Stonylowe, John Swynerton, of Whytmore, John Bromeley, and Edward Peke with divers other riotous persons to the number of six or thereabout with swords, bucklers, bills, staves, and other unlawful weapons, the 24th of July last, at *Newcastell* by the commandment of one William Heywood, of Stonylowe, broke down and

<sup>1</sup> He was Sheriff as Ed. Aston, Esq., November 7th, 1528, to November 9th, 1529, and as Sir Ed. Aston November 14th, 1534, to November 22nd, 1535; November 17th, 1540, to November 27th, 1541; November 13th, 1556, to November 16th, 1557.

putted open the doors and walls of the said tenement and into the same forcibly entered and cast out your said oratrix, and made an assault and affray and beat, struck and evil entreated her, so that she being an old poor woman was in great danger of her life and like to have been cruelly murdered and slain if she had not shortly had help of the inhabitants of the said town. Please your highness to direct your writ of *Subpena* to the said riotous persons commanding them to appear in your Star Chamber to make answer to the premises.

[Endorsed.] On the octaves of Hillary.

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WHATELEY *v.* BISHOP OF LICHFIELD.

Bundle XVII, No. 93.

*To the Kyng our Sovereign Lord.*

Humbly showeth and complaineth unto your Highness your faithful subject and daily oratrix Johan Whatley, late the wife of Thomas Whatley, deceased, that whereas John Standley, esquire, father to Elizabeth Standley and Isabell Standley, and their ancestors "whoos daughters and heyres oon John Hurcye and Water Moylle have taken to ther wyffes have had belongyng to ther Manour of Clyftoon Camvell withyn your countye of Stafford probate of testaments withyn the sayd Manour, withyn whyche Manour hyt hath bene acustomed tyme wherof the mynde of man ys nott to the contrary that the tenantes inhabytyng withyn the same Manour of Clyftoon Camvell aforesayd to have ther testaments proved att the Court holden withyn the Manour aforesayd afore the Steward of the same Courts and the person [parson] ther for the tyme beynge." Nevertheless your poor oratrix being a tenant inhabiting within the said manor, the Bishop of the diocese there being Bishop of Chester, and one Edmund Stretay, clerk, being commissary under the said bishop by the said bishop's commandments hath directed a citation to one Thomas Segg, their summoner, and "hath assyted" your poor oratrix to appear before them for the probate of her husband's testament, please your Highness to grant your writ of *subpena* to be directed to the abovesaid Edmund Stretay, clerk, and Thomas Segg to appear before your Council in your Star Chamber to make answer to the premises.

*The answer of Edmond Strethay, clerk, and Thomas Segge.*

The bill of complaint is uncertain, untrue and insufficient in the law to be answered unto. The said manor of Clyfton is within the diocese

of the Bishop of Chester, by reason whereof testaments of all persons inhabiting within the said Manor being "under c. li." ought by the spiritual law to be proved before the said bishop or his commissary there. And for that the said Thomas Whatley at the time of his death was inhabiting within the said manor and being worth in substance at the time of his death under £100, the said Edmund caused the said Johanne to be cited for the probate of her husband's testament as lawful was for the said Edmund to do.

*Interrogatories on the part of Johan Whatley, widow, to be ministered to Edmond Strethey and Thomas Segge.*

1. Whether the deponents do know and have heard say that the tenants of the manor of Clyfton Camvyll and inhabitants within the same manor used time out of mind to have the wills of such inhabitants and tenants to be proved at the Court within the said manor.

2. How many of the said tenants and inhabitants these deponents have known to have proved wills at the Court of the same manor?

3. Whether any of the said tenants and inhabitants having goods and chattels to the value of £100 ought or have at any time had any of their testaments proved before the Stewards of the said manor, and in what year?

4. How many inhabitants within the said manor have the deponents known to have proved their testaments before the Bishop of Chester?



ALREWAS COURT ROLLS.

1268—1269 AND 1272—1273.

*Transcribed and Edited by*

WALTER NOBLE LANDOR.



## ALREWAS COURT ROLLS.

1268—1269 AND 1272—1273.

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THE following Rolls are a continuation of those printed in Vol. X, New Series, to which a general introduction was prefixed, so that only a few supplementary remarks seem now to be needed.

It should be noted that all these Rolls are the original minutes of the proceedings of the Court, and were actually written while the Court was sitting. This is the reason why so many of the entries in these Rolls have been cancelled, for many orders were evidently made by the Court during the earlier part of its sitting, which were afterwards altered; generally no doubt on the petition of persons who had arrived late, and had found that their cases had been already dealt with.<sup>1</sup>

Naturally they were written rather hurriedly by the scribe. Hence there are a large number of clerical errors and many variations in the spelling of a single word.<sup>2</sup>

Originally Courts of this nature seem to have been held at fortnightly intervals, but an ordinance of 1234 provided that they should be held but once in three weeks.<sup>3</sup> The Alrewas Rolls are complete, or practically so,<sup>4</sup> within the periods named,

<sup>1</sup> See p. 101, note 3, p. 131, note 4, p. 135, note 4, etc.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 106, note 1, p. 110, note 6, p. 115, note 1, p. 122, note 4, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Seldon Society, Vol. II, p. xlix.

<sup>4</sup> P. 103, note 3.

so it is clear that this ordinance was not universally enforced, for it will be seen that they were held at most irregular intervals of from one week<sup>1</sup> to six or more weeks.

The general powers and duties of this Court have been already briefly mentioned,<sup>2</sup> but it may be convenient to mention some of those which are specifically illustrated in the Rolls now published.

Attention must first be called to some actions which were brought by tenants against the Lord of the Manor. *Ex officio* he was of course the head of this Court; in fact it may be said that the Court belonged to him as Lord of the Manor, and yet we find the Court adjudicating on these cases and actually issuing a distraint upon its own Lord. For Alrewas was ancient demesne of the Crown, and the tenants could therefore bring actions against their Lord by the little writ of right.<sup>3</sup>

In the following pages examples will be found of the power of this Court to decide the customs of the Manor,<sup>4</sup> to make regulations as to the use of the common fields,<sup>5</sup> to enforce the performance of bargains<sup>6</sup> and the payment of debts<sup>7</sup> between tenants, to see that the frankpledgers do their duty,<sup>8</sup> to settle minor affrays,<sup>9</sup> and even the raising of the hue and cry.<sup>10</sup>

It is interesting to see that the custom of "Borough English" prevailed in Alrewas even at this early date.<sup>11</sup>

Among the assize breakers is one who was fined for selling putrid and rotten meat,<sup>12</sup> and there are several interesting entries relating to the suit service which was due from the free tenants,<sup>13</sup> and there are some dealing with the sale of free land.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In 1272 one court was held on April 18th, the next on June 3rd, the next on June 11th, and the next on August 7th: see p. 103, note 3.

<sup>2</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. X, New Series, p. 252.

<sup>3</sup> P. 107, note 2, p. 117, note 3, p. 129, note 2, and *cf.* p. 134, note 1.

<sup>4</sup> P. 119, note 8.

<sup>5</sup> P. 103, note 4.

<sup>6</sup> P. 108, note 3.

<sup>7</sup> P. 110, note 2.

<sup>8</sup> P. 106, note 4.

<sup>9</sup> P. 116, note 4, p. 121, note 3, etc.

<sup>10</sup> P. 137, note 2, p. 131, note 6.

<sup>11</sup> P. 136, note 2, *cf.* Vol. X, p. 251, note 2, and *cf.* p. 109, note 4.

<sup>12</sup> P. 115, note 2, *cf.* p. 105, note 5, etc.

<sup>13</sup> Note on the next page.

<sup>14</sup> P. 126, note 1.



Finally attention may be directed to the fact that the Court resented any interference with its own powers or jurisdiction.<sup>1</sup>

The writer and the Society desire to express their grateful thanks to Professor Vinogradoff, whose unrivalled authority on the subject will be universally recognised. He has been kind enough to revise the transcript and the writer's rough notes. His corrected readings and illustrations have been important. He has not, however, seen these notes in their final form, so that he must not be held responsible for any errors that the writer may have made.

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### A NOTE ON THE SUIT SERVICE OF THE FREE TENANTS.

Some of the entries in these Rolls relating to the suit service of the free tenants are very puzzling, and it seems desirable to draw attention to them.

On June 11th, 1259, Nicholas White is distrained for his default at the Great Court, and he also found pledges because he had essoined himself at the Great Court and not at the next Court.

Again, on October 28th, 1273, we read that Wm. de Rideware, who had essoined himself at the Great Court after Easter, but did not come to have judgment therefor, and so was attached by his sureties (named), first of all essoined his first default, but the Court considered that he could not be essoined until he had purged his first default, so it decreed that he should be better distrained and that his sureties should be summoned. On the preceding August 10th, Wm. de Rideware is ordered to be distrained upon "because he essoined himself at the great court and did not come."

It would seem from these entries that a free tenant could not excuse himself from personal appearance at the Great Court, and that although he might try to do so, and even formally essoin himself, he was yet liable to be distrained upon for his personal absence. See also p. 133, note 2, where an obscure entry would seem to mean that Geoffrey the Woodreeve was in mercy because he essoined himself and had not awaited or required a day to be fixed by the court for his appearance.

It is also clear that a free tenant could essoin himself three times from personal attendance at any ordinary court without any further penalty, for on October 26th, November 16th, and December 14th, 1260, Wm. de Rideware did so essoin himself for the first, second and third times respectively. Wm. de Rideware was continually being distrained upon for default in appearance, and examples will be found in the courts of August 7th, August 29th, and October 8th, 1272. On October 29th, 1272, he essoins himself by a surety for the first time after several defaults, and also finds two sureties to appear.

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<sup>1</sup> P. 112, note 1.

## NOTE.

The following typographical devices have been used :—

Words through which a pen has been drawn, and which therefore seem to form no part of the record as finally settled, are printed within { }.

Marginal notes are usually printed after the entry to which they refer within ( ).

Sometimes the amount of the fine, as given in the margin, is printed after the word " misericordia " within ( ).

Latin words restored by conjecture, and Latin words which have been inserted to make the meaning clearer are printed within [ ].

Other additions by the transcriber are put *in italics* within ( ).

## ALREWAS

ORIGINAL MANOR COURT ROLL KEPT IN ALREWAS CHURCH.

(Continued from Vol. X, N.S., p. 293.)

CURIA apud Alrewas die Jovis proxima post festum sancti Nicholia anno regni regis Henrici quinquagesimo tertio (*Thursday*, 13 *December*, 1268).

Rogerus Faber de Croxhale essioniat se de communi [secta] per Robertum filium Roberti, j<sup>o</sup>.

Reginaldus Herynd [Herring] per Willelmum filium Roberti filii Reginaldi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Robertus filius Reginaldi per Robertum filium Hodi, ij<sup>o</sup>.

Ricardus Piscator per Robertum (*illegible*).

Hugo Slantle et Willelmus Adam (*torn off*), per (*torn off*).

Radulfus Pistor dstringitur pro sua transgressione facta penes (*torn off*) Ricardum Cappelalum.

Item. Henricus Prepositus dabit domino xii denarios eo quod licencialiter pandoxabit usque proximam curiam post Pasca.<sup>1</sup>

Simon Hubert debet quandum legem Julia[ne] de Bromle.<sup>2</sup>

Nicholaus Carpentarius dabit domino xii<sup>d</sup> pro eodem ; quietus.<sup>3</sup>

Hawys le Bonde ... xij<sup>d</sup> pro eodem.

Rogerus Wytamay ... " " "

Elys Almer ... " " " , quietus.

{ Robertus Faber ... " " " " }

{ Henricus Pistor ... " " " " }

{ Radulfus de Edenighale,, " " " , debet vi<sup>d</sup>. }

<sup>1</sup> Henry the Provost will give 12*d.* to the lord that he may have his license to brew beer until the next Court after Easter.

<sup>2</sup> The meaning of this sentence is that Simon ought to wage his law, *i.e.*, clear himself by means of compurgators (see *S.H.C.*, X, p. 253), of some offence of which Juliana has accused him. Simon evidently does clear himself, for at the next Court Juliana is fined 6*d.*, no doubt for this wrongful accusation.

<sup>3</sup> *pro eodem* for the same brewing licence as Henry the Provost or Reeve.

Radulfus de Edenighale in misericordia domini pro assisa servisie fracta (mia : quietus).<sup>1</sup>

Willelmus Adam dabit domino vj<sup>d</sup> secundum formam prenominatam, quietus.

Simon filius Willelmi Prepositi dabit domino xij<sup>d</sup> pro eodem.

Curia apud Alrewas die Lune proxima post Epiphaniam anno regni regis Henrici quinquagesimo tercio (*Monday, 7 Jan., 1268*·9).

Reginaldus Herrung ess : se per Willelmum filium Ricardi Capell[ani] ij de communi secta, ij<sup>o</sup>.

Rogerus Faber per Rogerum filium Johannis, ij<sup>o</sup>.

Juliana de Bromle in misericordia domini ; ponitur in respectu usque proximam curiam (mia : vj<sup>d</sup>).

Hugo Bernard et Willelmus frater suus in misericordia domini pro transgressione facta penes Galfridum filium Nolbe (?). Plegii, Willelmus Edrian et Thomas Bernard (ijj<sup>s</sup>, quieti).

Loquela inter Ricardum Capellanum et Radulfum Pistor ponitur {in respectu} in eodem statu quo inita (?) est.<sup>2</sup>

Ricardus Cocus in misericordia domini pro concelemento firme<sup>3</sup> domini (mia : iij<sup>s</sup> quietus).

Matilde Frewin in misericordia domini pro assisa servisie fracta (mia : quieta).

Agnes filia Ricardi Pistoris in misericordia domini pro eodem (mia : iij<sup>d</sup> quieta).

Radulfus de Lollinton (*Lullington*) in misericordia domini pro assisa servisia fracta.

Ita convenerunt Ricardus {b} Episcopus et Ricardus filius suus quod dictus Richardus pater suus concessit et sursum tradidit in plena curia de Alerewas totam terram suam quam quondam tenuit in manerio, per vi solidos quos Johanni de Somervil tradidit premanibus. Ita quod dictus Ricardus habebit lectum suum in domo sua dum vivit et tertiam garbam sine alicujus contradictione set filio suo (*sic*) tertiam partem firme suae solvi ad iiij<sup>or</sup> terminos in manerio statutos, dicte terre pertinente.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Servicie* for *cervicie*—beer. See *S.H.C.*, X, New Series, p. 261.

<sup>2</sup> The last two words are indistinct. If they have been correctly transcribed this entry means that the suit must begin all over again.

<sup>3</sup> *firma*, the firm or fixed rent.

<sup>4</sup> Richard Bishop grants to Richard his son all the land which he

Curia apud Alerewas die Lune proxima ante purificatione beate Marie anno regni regis liij<sup>o</sup>. (*Monday, 28 January, 1268*9).

Robertus filius Reginaldi essioniat se per Willelmum filium suum, primum.

Ricardus Piscator [ess : se] per Johanem patem suum, j<sup>o</sup>.

Galfridus filius Nolbe in misericordia dominī pro transgressionem facta. Plegius misericordie, Adam Edemon (mia : xij<sup>d</sup>).

Reginaldus le Bond dabit domino vj denarios eo quod licencialiter pandoxabit (*illegible*) usque Pasca (vj<sup>d</sup>. quietus).

Thomas de Botulhston (*Botolph*) dabit domino vj<sup>d</sup>. secundum formam prenominatam (vj<sup>d</sup>. quietus).

Memorandum quod Ricardus Episcopus concessit in curia de Alerwas Willelmo Bernard unam acram terre arrabilem jacentem ultra aquam qua vocatur Trente quod quousque recipere plene tres vesturas vnde et unam acram aliam jacentem in campo qui vocatur Redich quousque recipere duas vesturas inde.<sup>1</sup>

Memorandum quod Rogerus Wytemay concessit et tradidit in plena curie de Alerewas Willelmo Adam unam acram terre arrabilem ; illam quam habet in campo qui vocatur Spellowe habendam et tenendam sibi et heredibus suis vel assignatis quousque inde receperit vj vesturas plene.

Item. Idem Rogerus dicto Willelmo concessit et tradidit unam aliam acram terre jacentem propinquorem juxta campum qui vocatur Aldcrofft sibi et heredibus vel assignatis quousque recipere inde vj vesturas, termino incipiente ad festum sancti Martini anno regni regis Henrici liij<sup>o</sup>. Plegii, Robertus Pistor, et Willelmus Edrian, Ricardus filius Walteri et Simon filius Willelmi Prepositi.

Curia apud Alerewas die Lune proxima ante festum sancti

formerly held in the manor, and he pays six shillings to Sir John de Somerville for permission to make this grant. Richard, the father, is to have his bed in the house as long as he lives, and also the third sheaf, but he still has to pay to his son the third part of the rent. (In Norway such a provision for an aged parent is called "föderaad." P.V.)

<sup>1</sup> *vesturæ*—crops. In the preceding Court Richard Bishop the elder had granted all his land to his son Richard ; so it would seem that this is a grant by Richard Bishop the son.

Petri quod dicitur cathedra anno r. r. Henrici liij<sup>o</sup> (*Monday, 18 February, 1268'9*).

Robertus filius Regnaldi ess. se per Johannem Clericum de communi (secta), ij<sup>o</sup>.

Memorandum quod dominus Johannes di Somervill concessit et tradidit Ricardo filio Mariot totum comodum et exitum dimidie virgate terre Gilberti Cedric cum pertinentis suis in Frodele quousque plene recipere inde tres vesturas pro duobus solidis quos domino Johanni dedit premanibus.<sup>1</sup>

Henricus Pistor in misericordia domini pro assisa panis fracta.

{Ricardus Episcopus in misericordia domini pro assisa servisie fracta (mia : iiiij<sup>d</sup>).}

{Simon Sparr' in misericordia domini pro eodem pro eodem (*sic*) (mia : *illegible*).}

Memorandum quod Simon Huberd concessit et tradidit in plena curia de Alerewas Roberto Fabri dimidiam acram terre arrabilem illam quam (?) habet in campo qui vocatur Aldecrofft; habendam et tenendam sibi et heredibus suis vel asingnatis (*sic*) quousque inde recipere vj vesturas plenarie.

Memorandum quod Rogerus Wytemay concessit et tradidit Roberto Fabri unam acram terre arrabilem, illam quam (?) habet campo qui vocatur Redihige (?); habendam et tenendam sibi et heredibus suis vel asingnatis quousque inde recipere vj vesturas plenarie.

Curia apud Alerewas die sancti Gregori anno regni regis H. liij<sup>o</sup> (*Tuesday, 12 March, 1268'9*).

Rogerus Faber essoniat se de communi [secta] per Robertum, j<sup>o</sup>.

Ricardus filius Hauis per Johannem Clericum, j<sup>o</sup>.

Hondru (?) ess. se per Johannem filium Angnetis ad Molen-dinium, j<sup>o</sup>.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Richard, the son of Mariot, buys from the Lord of the Manor all the profits and issues of the half-virgate of land belonging to Gilbert Cedric in Fradley until he shall have had three full crops therefrom for two shillings. On p. 99 this Gilbert sells to Richard his brother some land called Lute Lattum. Gilbert occurs as the son of Mariot in Vol. X, p. 267.

*Hondru* ? perhaps Andrew.

Willelmus Adam per Robertum filium suum, j<sup>o</sup>.

Thomas ad Scalam<sup>1</sup> per Willelmum filium Roberti, j<sup>o</sup>.

Johannes Gyn per Johannem Hayme [or Hayine], j<sup>o</sup>.

{Robertus Bole et Henricus at Molendinium in misericordia domini pro transgressione facta penes Robertum Wele. Plegius Roberti, Henricus Kute. Plegius dicti Henrici, Robertus Pistor (mia viij<sup>d</sup> quietus)<sup>2</sup>}.

Robertus Wele invenit istos plegios ita quod se ipsum juste et pacifiter se habebit et portabit, scilicet Simonem filium Willelmi Prepositi, Radulfum Herryng.

Curia apud Alerewas die Veneris proxima post festum sancti Ambrosii anno regni r. H. liij (*Friday, 5 April, 1269*).

{Gilbertus Aluyn essoniat se de communi secta per Gilbertum Kede, j<sup>o</sup>.}

{Robertus filius Reginaldi per Willelmum filium suum, j<sup>o</sup>.}

{Willelmus de Rideware per Henricum le Bern[e], j<sup>o</sup>.}<sup>3</sup>

{Robertus Kocus per Willelmum Clericum, j<sup>o</sup>.}

Hugo de Slantle in misericordia domini pro transgressione facta penes Ricardum Capellanum.

Curia apud Alerewas in crastino sancti Marci anno regni regis Henrici, liij (*Friday, 26 April, 1269*).

Willelmus de Rideware essoniat se de communi secta per Johannem Atelard, ij<sup>o</sup>.

Henricus Fadir per Johannem filium suum, j<sup>o</sup>.

Willelmus filius Walteri per Galfridum Avery, j<sup>o</sup>.

Gilbertus Thomas per Willelmum filium Roberti, j<sup>o</sup>.

Ricardus filius Hawys per Robertum filium Hodi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Reginaldus Gamel in misericordia domini pro transgressione

<sup>1</sup> *ad scalam*—at the style.

<sup>2</sup> Evidently Robt. Bole and Henry were originally accused of some trespass against Robt. Wele, but before the Court rose this accusation was cancelled, and it was the quondam plaintiff, Robt. Wele, who had to find two sureties to behave himself properly in the future. These cancelled entries are often instructive. See p. 101, note (3), and p. 121, note 3.

<sup>3</sup> *le-Berne*, i.e., a forester, cf. *Bernarius*. He was not a "Bernard." See p. 112, note 4, and cf. p. 100, note 4, and p. 134, note 2.

facta penes<sup>1</sup> Adam Paty (?). Plegius misericordie, Robertus filius Radulfi. Thomas Bernard dabit unam ducenam pullorum.<sup>2</sup>

Willelmus Faber de Edenighale dabit domino ij solidos eo quod habeat plenam saysinam quarte partis unius virgate terre in Edenighale. Plegii dicti Willelmi ; Robertus Anabe, Robertus frater suus.

Memorandum quod Simon Hubert invenit plegios substantios (?) solvendi domino xij solidos ad iiij<sup>or</sup> annuos terminos, scilicet pro acra qua tenet de domino, scilicet Henricum Prepositum, Ricardum Huberd.<sup>3</sup>

Curia apud Alerewas die Martis proxima ante festum sancti Augustini episcopi anno regni regis liij (*Tuesday, 21 May, 1269*).

Willelmus filius Reginaldi essoniat se per Reginaldum Gamel de communi [secta], j<sup>o</sup>.

Rogerus Wytemay per Galfridum Auveri, j<sup>o</sup>, de communi.

Willelmus filius Walteri per Willelmum filium Roberti, j<sup>o</sup>, ij<sup>o</sup>.

Robertus filius Reginaldi per Robertum Hodi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Willelmus Fox per Willelmum filium Jone, j<sup>o</sup>, de communi.

Sybella de Frodele per Johannem Peper, j<sup>o</sup>, de communi.

Galfridus filius Nicholai essoniat se per Hugonem filium Hodi, j<sup>o</sup>.

{Radulfus Piscator} dabit domino vjd. eo quod haberit plenam saysinam in quadam placea terre in Alrewas. (pro fine vjd.).

{Willelmus Macurnes} dabit domino vjd.<sup>4</sup> Plegius, Radulfus de Freford. (pro fine vjd.)}

{Elys Almer in misericordia domini pro assise servisie fracta. (mia. vjd.)}

Simon filius Willelmi Prepositi in misericordie pro eodem. (mia : *blank*.)}

{Radulfus de Edeinhall in misericordia pro eodem.}

<sup>1</sup> *penes*—"on," *i.e.*, against. The surety for the amercement is Robert, the son of Ralph.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Bernard will give one dozen fowls—why is not stated.

<sup>3</sup> *plegios substantios*—substantial pledges.

*Macurnes, i.e.*, Mac Harnes, a Scotch name. He was the son of Geoffrey of Edingale, p. 112, note 1.



{Robertus ad Fontem de Frodele in misericordia domini pro transgressione facta (mia. vjd.)}

(*Hereafter the entries are written on the back of the roll and the first is probably a continuation of the court of 21 May, 1269.*)

Memorandum quod Gilbertus Cedric de Frodele dedit, concessit et in plena curia tradidit Ricardo fratri suo quandam placeam terre (*illegible*) qua vocatur Lutle lattum; habendam et tenendam de me et heredibus meis sibi et heredibus sine aliquando contradicenta inperpetuum. Redendo inde anuatim mihi et heredibus meis sibi et heredibus suis unum denarium ad festum sancti Michelis pro omni servicio et demanda; anno regnis regis Henrici filii J., liij (1268–1269).<sup>1</sup>

(*Here is a long blank space on the Roll.*)

Curia apud Alerewas in vigellia sancti Barnabe apostoli anno regni regis Henrici 1<sup>o</sup> tertio (*Monday, 10 June, 1269*).

Robertus filius Reginaldi essioniat se de communi [secta] per Galfridum Auvery, ij<sup>o</sup>.

Thomas ad Scalam de Edenighale per Thomam filium Roberti de Blacfordebi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Ricardus filius Hawisie essioniat se per Johannem Clericum de communi [secta,] j<sup>o</sup>.

Ricardus filius Walteri in misericordia domini pro transgressione facta penes Johannem Gin. Plegium misericordie, hus et ham.<sup>2</sup> Plegii dicti Ricardi, Simon filius Willelmi Prepositi et Nicholas filius Avice. (mia. vjd., quietus).

Reginaldus le Bonde in misericordia domini pro transgressione facta penes Hugonem Prepositum. Plegii dicti Reginaldi sunt Nicolas frater suus, Elys Almer; Plegii misericordie domini, Robertus Pistor, Adam Prepositus. (mia vjd. quietus).<sup>3</sup>

Curia apud Alerewas in crastino sancti Pauli anno r.r. Henrici liij (*Sunday, 30 June, 1269*).

Henricus Fadir essioniat se de communi [secta] per Johannem filium suum.

<sup>1</sup> See p. 96, note 1.

<sup>2</sup> *hus*—the dwelling house; *ham*—the Croft. See *S.H.C.*, X, New Series, p. 262, note 3.

<sup>3</sup> See Vol. X, New Series, p. 269, note 3.

Henricus Faber de Edenighale per Henricum (?) Clericum.

Loweke de Frodele conquerit de Reginaldo Herring et de manupast[o]. Plegium prosequendo : hus et ham.<sup>1</sup>

Reginaldus Herring debet quendam legem Juliana de Frodele. Plegii, Robertus ad Fontem, Ricardus Huberd.

Curia apud Alerewas in crastino sancti Jacobi anno regnis regis Henrici 1<sup>o</sup> iij<sup>o</sup> (*Friday, 26 July, 1269*).

Willelmus filius Walteri essoniat se per Galfridum Auuery de communi (secta) j<sup>o</sup>.

Simon Hubert ess. se per Johannem Dominum, j<sup>o</sup>.<sup>2</sup>

Galfridus filius Nicolai per Reginaldum Gamel, j<sup>o</sup>.

Ricardus le Pammer (*the Palmer*) per Ricardum filium suum, j<sup>o</sup>.

Thomas ad Scalam per Henricum (?) Clericum, j<sup>o</sup>.

Iohannes Burdunt<sup>3</sup> per Robertum filium Gone (*Joan*), j<sup>o</sup>.

Walterus le Berne<sup>4</sup> per Willelmum filium le lec<sup>5</sup>, j<sup>o</sup>.

Reginaldus Herryng per Willelmum Clericum, j<sup>o</sup>.

Henricus Fadir per Petrum filium Dyke, ij<sup>o</sup>.

Robertus filius Reginaldi ess. se de communi [secta] per Robertum Hodi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Robertus filius Hawis per Reginaldum Gadeling, j<sup>o</sup>.

Henricus Prepositus in misericordia domini pro transgressione facta penes Willelmum Wymer. Plegius, Adam Prepositus. (mia. ij sol. quietus).

<sup>1</sup> Luke of Fradley complains of Reginald Herring and of his household ; and on the 29th August Reginald has to find sureties to satisfy Luke for the damage done to him. *cf. Leges Henrici*, I, c. 66, and p. 99, note 2.

<sup>2</sup> Simon Hubert essoins himself from suit service at Court by John Lord. There seems to have been a family with the surname of Lord at Fradley. (See *S.H.C.*, X, New Series, p. 292.) Sir John de Somerville, the ord of the manor, is never referred to in these rolls as "Johannes dominus." See p. 114, note 1, where he occurs as John Fisher.

<sup>3</sup> This name is subsequently written as Bordun and Burden, pp. 109, 115, 119.

<sup>4</sup> This name is written elsewhere as Bern and Beryn. It does not appear to be an abbreviation for Bernard, as suggested in *S.H.C.*, X, New Series, p. 261. Walter was of Edingale, see pp. 114, 116, 119. See p. 126, 133, 134, note 2. The name Bernard is always written in full in these rolls.

<sup>5</sup> *le lec*. This name does not occur elsewhere in the Rolls. Possibly it should be Lelec' = *Alecie*. Wm., the son of Alice, occurs in Vol. X, pp. 270, 280, 282.

{Plegii ? Reginaldi le Bonde in misericordia domini quia manuceperant ad faciendam corectionem erga Hugonem Prepositum et non fecerunt.<sup>1</sup>}

Loquela inter Reginaldum Herryng et Loweke de Frodele ponitur in respectum usque proximam curiam.

Ricardus Baron distringatur veniendi ad proximam curiam.

Gilbertus Cribal<sup>2</sup> in misericordia domini pro transgressione facta in bosco de Vichenouere. (*Wichnor*) Plegii misericordie, Henricus Kute et Simon filius Willelmi Prepositi. {(mia. vjd. quietus.)}

Curia apud Alrewas die sancti Bartholomey apostoli anno r.r. H. filii r.J. liij (*Saturday, 24 August, 1269*).

Galfridus filius Nicholai essoniat se per Galfridum Avrey de communi secta, ij<sup>o</sup>.

Rogerus de Crocheshal per Robertum Fabrum, j<sup>o</sup>.

Johannes Gin per Reginaldum Gamel, j<sup>o</sup>.

Willelmus filius Walteri per Petrum Laly, (?) ij<sup>o</sup>.

Ricardus Mogge per Willelmum Clericum, j<sup>o</sup>.

Robertus filius Hawicie per Galfridum Clericum, ij<sup>o</sup>.

{Henricus Fader per J. Sam, (?) ij<sup>o</sup>}

{Henricus Cute, Simon filius Prepositi ad proximam curiam veniendum.}<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The sureties of Reginald the husbandman are at the mercy of the lord because they had undertaken (taken Reginald by the hand and promised ; see Vol. X, p. 253) before Hugh the Provost to make amends and had not done so.

<sup>2</sup> *Cribal* or *Tribal*. On p. 102 it is written *C'bald* or *T'bald*. See the next note.

<sup>3</sup> This entry affords a good illustration of the way in which the identical rolls which are now being transcribed were actually written by the bailiff or his clerk during the sitting of the Court. These rolls are in fact the original minutes of the proceedings at Court, and every case is recorded in the order in which it came before the Court. (See also p. 97, note 2, etc., etc.) Hence, as in this case, it was frequently necessary to cancel entries that had been made. In the preceding Court Gilbert Cribal was in mercy for some trespass in Wichnor wood, and Henry Kute and Simon, the son of William the Provost, became his sureties to pay the amercement. At first the Court decided that the offence should be settled by a fine of sixpence, which seems to have been paid. As the words "mia : vjd. quietus" were subsequently cancelled it would seem that this order was rescinded. At this Court Henry

{Gilbertus filius Thome per Willelmum Badde, j<sup>o</sup>.}

Ricardus Piscator invenit hos plegios, Willelmum Edon (?) et Robertum filium Radulfi s [versus] Adam Prepositum, Hugonem fratrum suum sibi satisfaciendi super quadam transgressionem.<sup>1</sup>

Gilbertus C[ri]bald in misericordia domini; Reginaldus le Bonde (*est*) plegius (mia. iij*d.*)<sup>2</sup>.

Reginaldus Heringe invenit hos plegios, scilicet Ricardum Hubert, Henricum Gunilde, satisfaciendi Lovoc et est in misericordia domini (xij*d.*)<sup>3</sup>.

Bagganal dabit domino xij*d.* in pena.<sup>4</sup>

Berche croft dabit domino xij*d.* pro eadem.<sup>4</sup>

Adam filius Johannis de Hurlermer invenit istos plegios, scilicet Robertum Carpentarium et Johannem de Aula pro v solidos in quibus Johannis de Horlemer ten[et]? Reginaldum le bonde itaque satisfaceat dicto Reginaldo infractione (?) (*illegible*) vel restit[uit] bestias suas in eodem statu quo prius fuere.<sup>5</sup>

Willelmus filius Walteri invenit istos plegios, scilicet Ricardum Piscatorem, Hugonem de Slanle, faciendi corexionem Willel Edrian et Robert fil Radulfi.

and Simon were ordered to appear at the next court, no doubt in connection with his suretyship, but just after this order had been made Gilbert turned up and paid his amercement, so the order to Henry and Simon was naturally cancelled. Gilbert had no doubt persuaded the Court that the original fine of 6*d.* was too much, for he is now only ordered to pay 3*d.*

<sup>1</sup> Edon is probable a mistake for Edrian. See the last entry of this Court. Richard undertakes to satisfy Adam and Hugh for some offence that he has committed against them, and William and Robert are the sureties of Richard.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. note 3, p. 101.

<sup>3</sup> Reginald finds these sureties, viz., Richard and Henry, to satisfy Luke of Fradley (see the last two courts) for the offence committed against him. But besides this he has to pay the Lords amercement of 12*d.*

<sup>4</sup> Baginhal was a field in Alrewas, p. 127. (It is curious to find fines charged upon a field and a croft. Possibly there had been some infringement of the bye-laws, and a common fine had been levied according to the tenements. P.V.)

<sup>5</sup> The text of this entry is partly illegible, but apparently Adam, the son of John de Hurlermer, finds sureties to pay the five shillings, which is due from John de Horlemer to Reginald the husbandman, so as to satisfy the said Reginald the said sum of money, or else to let him have the beasts back in as good a condition as they originally were. The taking of the beasts must have happened as a wrongful distress or as a downright trespass.

Curia apud Halrewas die Lune proxima ante Pascha anno r. r. H. lv. (*Monday, 18 April, 1272*).

Henricus Fader essoniat se de communi [secta] per Johannem filium suum, j<sup>o</sup>.

Rogerus Cocus pandoxavit<sup>1</sup> contra assisam; ideo in misericordia (*vjd.*).

Nicholaus le Bonde similiter (*vjd.*).

Adam Falyn similiter (*vjd.*).

Willelmus de Boruwey similiter. Condonatus per dominum.

Willelmus filius Reginaldi similiter, de Frodely (*vjd.*).

Radulfus de Hedenighale similiter (*vjd.*).

Galfridus de filius Henrici Goderisch in misericordia (*xijd.*) quia pandoxavit malam serviciam et vendidit contra assisam.<sup>2</sup>

Johannes Dodding cepit in plena curia per licenciam domini medietatem prati Rogeri Wytemay qua continet per estimationem dimidiam rodam ad terminum octo annorum, videlicet donec reciperet viij croppos.

Ricardus Mogge conqueritur de Roberto de Boruwey. Plegius de prosequendo, Adam Prepositus et preceptum est quod dictus Robertus summoniatur.<sup>3</sup>

Concessum est in plena curia quod Haldesalesmor erit in defencione ad equos et boves qui debent vendi et si quis contra conventionem venerit, dabit domino (*vjd.*).<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *pandoxavit* = brewed.

<sup>2</sup> Geoffrey not only broke the assize of beer, but he also brewed bad beer, so he has to pay twice as much as the others.

<sup>3</sup> This suit gives a good example of the law of essoin and of the different ways in which the same man is described in these rolls. On the 18th April Richard Mogge complains of Robert de Boruwey. Adam the Provost or Reeve is the surety that Richard will go on with his suit, and Robert is ordered to be summoned for the next court. On 3rd June Robert Batemon, the boatman, essoins himself for the first time. As Batemon de Boruwey he essoins himself for the second time on 11th June. As Robert Batemon he essoins himself for the third time on the 7th August, and finds sureties to appear at the next Court. On the 29th August a day is given to the parties so that they may make an agreement before the next Court without any further essoins being allowed and without delay. On the 8th October Batemon of Boreway is amerced *6d.* for the offence made against Richard Mogge. Incidentally this suit shows that these rolls are complete during the period named and that the Courts were held at very irregular intervals.

<sup>4</sup> *Concessum* in the sense of *consideratum*. This is a good early example

Radulfus de la Bache sumonitus fuit per testes contra Symonem Clericum de Lych[feld] et non venit, ideo distringatur.<sup>1</sup>

Curia apud Alrewas die Veneris proxima post ascensionem anno regni regis H. filii regis J. lvj. (*Friday, 3 June, 1272.*)

Galfridus filius Nicholai essoniat se de communi [secta] per Robertum filius Hodi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Henricus Woderoue essoniat se per Reginaldum Gamel, j<sup>o</sup>.

Willelmus filius Reginaldi ess. se per Henricum Molendinarium, j<sup>o</sup>.

Robertus Batemon essoniat se versus Ricardum Mogge per Willelmum Badde,<sup>2</sup> j<sup>o</sup>.

Henricus Fader ess. se de communi [secta] per Petrum filium Dike, ij<sup>o</sup>.

Reginaldus de Frodely ess. se per Henricum filium Reginaldi (?), j<sup>o</sup>.

Robertus filius Hauwysie ess. se per Robertum filium Johannis, j<sup>o</sup>.

Gilbertus Houweyn (*Owen*) ess. per Robertum filium Valteri, j<sup>o</sup>.

of a bye-law made by a Court (*cf. The growth of the Manor*, Prof Vinogradoff, p. 269). In this case the Court decrees that Aldersal's moor shall not be used for horses or oxen which ought to be sold, though it is the lord of the manor who will receive the fine 6*d.* if this order be not observed. At the next Court in accordance with this decree, Robert, the son of Ralph, was fined the large sum of 3*s.* for his animals, which were found in a prohibited place, viz., Haldesalles moor; Adam the Provost was reported for the same offence but was forgiven by the lord; William, the son of Thomas of Slanley, was fined 12*d.*, and Nicolas, the son of Avice, was fined 2*s.* At the same time a further inquiry was ordered to be made about those who are said to sell oxen that had been placed in the prohibited field.

<sup>1</sup> Ralph of the brook was summoned by trustworthy witnesses to appear in the suit versus Simon, the Clerk of Lichfield, but he did not appear so the Court orders a distraint to be made upon him. For a similar distraint see Vol. X, New Series, p. 283, where an overcoat was first seized. In this case also the first distraint was not sufficient to make the defendant appear, so a further distraint was ordered on the 3rd June. This is the last entry relating to this suit. Ralph was evidently a free tenant, and on the 12th July, 1273, he was ordered to be distrained upon for making default at the Great Court, *i.e.*, the View of Frank Pledge. See Vol. X, New Series, p. 259, note 4.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 103, note (3).

Robertus filius Reginaldi de Orgrave per Galfridum filium Alicie, j<sup>o</sup>.

Simon filius Prepositi per Johannem Pip[er], j.

Robertus Gadelyng per Robertum filium ejus, j.

Gilbertus Amelod per Reginaldum Gadelyng, j.

Henricus Faber de Hedenighale per Thomam filium Henrici, j.

Willelmus Hadam per Ricardum Capellanum, j.

Henricus Prepositus per Henricum Clericum, j.

Galfridus filius Alicie de Frodele in misericordia (vj*d.*) quia molendivit bladum suum alibi quam ad molendinum de Alrewas ubi soccam debet. Plegius, Henricus filius Gunnild de Frodeley.<sup>1</sup>

Ricardus de la Bruere<sup>2</sup> in misericordia (xij*d.*) pro transgressione. Plegius (*blank*).

Robertus filius Radulfi in misericordia (iijs.) pro averiis suis inventis in defencione videlicet in Haldesallesmor. Condonatur per dominum,<sup>3</sup> xij*d.*

Adam Prepositus in misericordia pro eodem; condonatur per dominum.<sup>3</sup>

Willelmus filius Thomai de Slanley, in misericordia (xij*d.*) pro eodem. Dominus recep' eos.<sup>4</sup>

Nicholas filius Awys in misericordia (ijs.) pro eodem.<sup>3</sup>

Inquirendum est de hiis qui se dicunt vendere boves pocitos [appositos] in defencionem in Aldesallesmor.<sup>3</sup>

Willilmus filius Reginaldi de Frodeley in misericordia (vj*d.*) quia pandoxavit contra assisam et fecit servisiam malam.<sup>5</sup>

Nicke (*sic* Nicholas?) in misericordia pro assisa fracta; condonatur per dominum.

<sup>1</sup> Geoffrey is fined 6*d.* because he did not have his corn ground at the Alrewas mill to which he was tied. The right of a lord to compel his tenants to bring their corn to be ground at the lord's mill was a profitable source of income in mediæval times. The miller had to pay a comparatively large rental for his mill, and the lord looked after his rights. (See p. 119, note 7; *cf. Cart. of Ramsey*, I, p. 473.)

<sup>2</sup> Richard of the heath was of Fradley. See p. 129.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 103, note 4.

<sup>4</sup> See p. 103, note 4. The last portion of this entry seems to mean that the lord seized the cattle of William, which were on the forbidden moor.

<sup>5</sup> See p. 103, note 2.

Henricus Prepositus, (vj*d.*) Willelmus Adam, (vj*d.*) Symon filius Prepositi, (vj*d.*) Rogerus Cocus, (condonatus) {Willelmus} atte Cywythi mulne,<sup>1</sup> (vj*d.*) Nicholas filius Roberti Bonde, (vj*d.*) Adam Falyn, (vj*d.*) in misericordia pro assisa fracta.

Galfridus Kute in misericordia (xij*d.*) pro parvo pane.<sup>2</sup>

Radulfus filius Walteri (xij*d.*) quater brasiavit contra assisam Et Robertus de la Were bis brasiavit contra assisam; (condonatur per dominum).

Adam Hedemon in misericordia (ijs.) pro transgressione quia maledixit Willelmum Bernard.<sup>3</sup>

Willimus Bernard in misericordia (vj*d.*) quia maledixit dictum Adam. Plegius, Thomas Bernard.<sup>3</sup>

Ricardus Mogge (v<sup>sol</sup>), Henricus filius Gunnild de Frodeley (vj<sup>sol</sup>), Robertus Pistor (iii<sup>sol</sup>), Willelmus Messor (xviii*d.*), Robertus Houweyn (ijs<sup>sol</sup>), Ricardus Cocus (?) (xij*d.*), in misericordia quia non dixere transgressionem sicut factam fuit inter Adam Edemon et Willelmum Bernard (xix<sup>sol</sup> et vj<sup>den</sup>).<sup>4</sup>

Radulfus de la Bache distringatur versus Symonem Clericum de Lychfield ad respondendum dicto Symoni in curia de Alrewas.<sup>5</sup>

Hauwsia relicta Galfridi Suan dat domino iij solidos; habend' et tenand' terram dicti Galfridi ad terminum duorum annorum (tres solidi).

Symon Huberd in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro quadam quercula<sup>6</sup> prostrata in bosco domini. Plegius, Adam Bedellus.

Rogerus Cocus in misericordia (vj*d.* condonatur) quia receptavit malefactores in aya.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Cywythimulne*. This word is elsewhere spelt by the writer of these rolls as Siwithmilne, Siwethimulne, Sywethmulne, Sewesimuln, Sywehmlne. It probably means a sieving mill.

<sup>2</sup> Geoffrey Cute was fined 12*d.* for a small loaf. Evidently an offender against the assize of bread.

<sup>3</sup> Two cases of abuse and swearing. Hedemon signifies the man or servant of Edward.

<sup>4</sup> These are very heavy fines for this period. Apparently their offence was that they had not reported the exact particulars of the affray between Adam and William, p. 106, note 3. No doubt they were all Frankpledgers. See p. 130, note 5, and p. 128, note 3.

<sup>5</sup> See p. 104, note 1.

<sup>6</sup> *Quercula*, small oak tree.

<sup>7</sup> Roger the Cook is amerced 6*d.* because he received into his house some



Henricus Pistor in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro eadem.

Reginaldus Hering de Frodeley in misericordia (xij*d.*) quia vendidit crates factas de bosco domini.<sup>1</sup>

Galfridus Hering in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro eodem.

Willelmus de Strethay sumonitus fuit ad faciendum legem suam contra dominum et non venit. Idio distringatur.<sup>2</sup>

Robertus de Brewode cepit seysinam in plena curia de terra qua Henricus Averil tenuit in villa de Orgrauue et dabit domino quatuor marcas solvendas in octavo sancti Johannis Baptiste ij marcas et in octavo sancti Michaelis ij marcas. Plegii ad solvendam, Willelmus Edrian, Robertus filius Radulfi, Ricardus Mogge et Robertus Pistor.

Curia magna apud Alrewas die Sabbati in festo sancti Barnabe apostoli anno, r.r. lvi (*Saturday, 11th June, 1272*).<sup>3</sup>

Galfridus filius Nicholai [essoniat se] per Robertum filium Roberti de communi [secta], ij<sup>o</sup>.

people who committed offences in the Hay of Alrewas. His fine is afterwards remitted.

<sup>1</sup> Because he sold hurdles made out of the lord's timber.

<sup>2</sup> This is an interesting example of a suit between the Lord of a Manor and his tenant being decided by the Court of the said Lord. It has been already pointed out that the Court in a manor of ancient demesne was, in actual practice, quite independent of its nominal Lord. (See Vol. X, New Series, pp. 251, 252.) This suit begins by the Court ordering William de Strethay to wage his law (see Vol. X, New Series, p. 262 (2)), against his Lord. As he has not complied with this order he is to be distrained upon. On the 11th June William is ordered either to make his peace with his Lord before the next Court day, or else wage his law, in accordance with the arrangement that had been previously made between William and his lord. It may be inferred from the phrase "*ad voluntatem domini*," that the formal permission of the lord was necessary before William could thus wage his law against him. On the 7th August another distraint was issued against this William, but it is not clear whether it was on account of this suit or on account of his failing to do his suit-service at Court, but it is possible that the whole suit related to this suit-service, about which there may have been dispute. With regard to this suit it must be remembered that Alrewas was a manor of Ancient Demesne, and therefore its procedure was peculiar. (See *Villainage in England*, p. 425, and the *Rolls of the Manor of Kings Ripton*, printed in Vol. II of the Seldon Society's publications, p. 114.)

<sup>3</sup> There are only two Courts in these rolls which are definitely described as being great courts, although a great court is referred to on 11th June, 1259,

Willelmus Bernardus per Petrum filium Nicholai, j<sup>o</sup>.

Roger Faber de Croxale per Robertum Fabrum, j<sup>o</sup>.

Robertus filius Hauwys per Henricum Molendinarium, ij<sup>o</sup>.

Henricus Pistor per Reginaldum filium Alani, j<sup>o</sup>.

Willelmus Fox per Robertum filium Hodi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Robertus filius Reginaldi per Robertum filium Johannis, j<sup>o</sup>.

*(Here the skin ends. The next skin has been sewn on to it and apparently the Court of June 11th is continued thus.)*

Batemon de Borewey [essoniat se] versus Ricardum Mogge per Galfridum filium Rogeri ad molendinum,<sup>1</sup> j<sup>o</sup>.

Robertus Koc[us] per Ricardum Cappellanum, j<sup>o</sup>.

Datus est dies Willelmo de Strethay ad faciendum quietum (?) domin' infra proximam curiam vel facere legem, ut conventum est inter eos ad voluntatem domini. Plegii, Radulfus de Strethay et Willelmus Edrian.<sup>2</sup>

Rogerus Wytemay conqueritur de Ricardo de Cruce quod dictus Ricardus vendidit dicto Rogero lactes (?) bonas et fregit convencionem ei, unde dampnum habuit ij solidos.<sup>3</sup> Item. Idem dictus Rogerus conqueritur de Willelmo Martin de transgressionem.<sup>4</sup>

Rogerus Whytemay in misericordia (vj*l.*) quia maladixit Willelmum Martin.

and 7th October, 1259, Vol. X, New Series, pp. 259 and 267. These great courts were usually held every half-year, and were subsequently known as the View of Frankpledge, but at this period there does not appear to have been any distinction between these great courts and the ordinary ones, save perhaps as regards the suit service of some of the free tenants. (See note on p. 91.) The other great court in these rolls was held on the 14th July 1273.

<sup>1</sup> See p. 103, note 3.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 107, note 3.

<sup>3</sup> Roger complains that Richard of the Cross has broken his agreement and sold him defective goods, by which he has suffered to the extent of 2*s.* In the next entry but two Richard is fined 6*l.* for this offence, but nothing is said about the damages. If he had to pay them, the lord would not be interested in them and so the scribe would not be particular about recording them. See *S.H.C.*, X, New Series, p. 248.

<sup>4</sup> This and the next two entries relate to some petty quarrel between Roger and William. They are both fined 6*l.*, Roger for abuse and swearing, William for some trespass.

Willelmus Martin in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro transgressione facta versus Rogerum Wytemay.<sup>1</sup>

Ricardus de Cruce in misericordia (vj*d.*) quia fregit conventionem de lactis versus Rogerum Witemay. Plegius, Willelmus Martin.<sup>2</sup>

Thomas filius Roberti Angnes de Hedenighale in misericordia (vj*d.*) quia detinet pannag[ium] in forinseco bosco de Alrewas. Plegius, Johannes Bordun.<sup>3</sup>

Gilbertus Partric (*Partridge*) in misericordia quia percussit Johannem Ehoc (?) et sanguinem traxit ab eo.

Willelmus filius Willelmi Fox det domino viij solidos ad habendam plenam seysinam tote terre patris sui et Symon filius Prepositi habebit dictam terram ad terminum octo annorum si dictus puer infra eatatem in fato (?) disesserit.<sup>4</sup>

Agnes uxor Hubert dat domino vj*d.* ad habendam dotem suam duarum acrarum terre que Reginaldus Hering et Sybil vidua de Frodeley tenent.

Curia de Alrewas die dominica proxima ante festum sancti Laurentini anno r.r. H. lvi (*Sunday, August 7th, 1272*).

Gilbertus Amelot essoniat se de communi [secta] per Robertum filium Hodi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Robertus Batemon [ess. se] versus Ricardum Mogge per Reginaldum filium Alicie, terciio. Plegii adveniend ad proximam curiam, Gilbertus Howeyn et Ricardus filius Hauwys.<sup>5</sup>

Henricus Fader per Petrum filium Dike, j<sup>o</sup>.

Robertus Pistor ess. se per Johannem Piperum, j<sup>o</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Cf. note 4, p. 108.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 108, note (3).

<sup>3</sup> Thomas was fined *6d.* because he kept back the pannage money, payable in respect of the foreign wood of Alrewas. (The expression *forinsecus*—foreign—often occurs in connection with towns, the portman part being opposed to the foreign one, and there is no reason why the term should not be used in a rural manor for “outside” portions of the letter. P.V.)

<sup>4</sup> William gives the lord 8*s.* to have full seisin of all his father’s land, and Symon is to have the said land for eight years if William should unfortunately die while a minor. Symon was the son of William the Provost, and may possibly have been an elder brother of William the boy.

<sup>5</sup> See p. 103, note 3.

Henricus Pistor per Robertum garcionem Fabri, ij<sup>o</sup>.<sup>1</sup>

Robertus filius Hauwys ess. se per Adam Bedellum, ij<sup>o</sup>.

Simon filius Prepositi et Willelmus Fox et Henricus Woderove et Willelmus Martin questi sunt de Gilberto Partric de debito quod debet eisdem. Quilibet istorum plegius alterius ad prosequendum et preceptus est quod Symon ad proximam curiam.<sup>2</sup>

Simon Piscator dat domino vjd. pro inquisitione habenda de blado unius acre terre que dicit quod G[alfridus] Goki concessit factum patris sui plene et consideratum est quod dictus Simon restituatur de blado suo asportato.<sup>3</sup>

Reginaldus Piscator dat domino vj denarios pro eadem.<sup>4</sup>

Galfridus Goky in misericordia (vj<sup>d</sup>.) quia queritur false de Reginaldo Piscatore et condonavit per dominum quia nihil habet in bonis.<sup>5</sup>

Johannes filius Willelmi de Frodeley dat domino xijd. ad habendam inquisitionem quatuor acris terre in Frodeley si propinquor heres est dictis acris habendi vel non, quas Ricardus successor? Sybeli tenet. Plegius; Robertus ad Fontem et p[receptum est quod] sumoniatur.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Henry the Baker essoins himself for the second time from suit service Court on the oath of Robert, the boy or assistant of the Smith.

<sup>2</sup> Simon, William, Henry, and William complain of Gilbert Partridge concerning the debt that he owes them. Each of them is surety for the others prosecuting, and Simon is to appear at the next Court, when Gilbert is fined 6*d*. for detaining 4*s*. 6*d*. from William Fox and Henry Woderove.

<sup>3</sup> Simon the Fisher gave 6*d*. to the lord to have an enquiry about the corn or produce of one acre of land, as he says that Geoffrey Goki had fully confirmed the deed of his father; so it is considered by the Court that the corn carried off should be restored to Simon.

<sup>4</sup> Reginald the Fisher gave 6*d*. to the lord for a similar enquiry. It looks as if he were the brother of Simon.

<sup>5</sup> Geoffrey Goki is fined 6*d*. for his false complaint against Reginald the Fisher, but the fine is afterwards remitted by the lord because he has no goods.

<sup>6</sup> John, the son of William de Fradley, otherwise John de Herton, gives 12*d*. to the lord for an enquiry to be held as to who is the next heir to four acres of land in Fradley, which Richard as the successor (?) of Sybil holds. It is ordered that Richard be summoned. On the 29th August John puts in his place Gilbert Cedric to prosecute at Alrewas Court in case he is not able to be personally present, and Richard, who is now called the son of

Gilbertus Howen dat domino ij solidos pro inquisitione habenda de quadam placea terre qua vocatur Wyppersley qua Gibertus Amelot tenet et preceptum est quod sumoniatur.<sup>1</sup>

Alianor de Hedenighale dat domino ij solidos pro inquisitione habenda de uno messuagio in eadem villa et capiatur inquisitio ad proximam curiam quod messuagium Radulfus de Freford tenet.<sup>2</sup>

{Adam Falyn}, Nicholas le Bonde (*vjd.*), Willelmus Adam, Henricus Prepositus, Galfridus Goki, Nicholas Rotarius, {Henricus Faber (vi)} in misericordia pro assisa pane. Thomas de Botulweston in misericordia (*vjd.*) pro eodem, {Henricus Pistor in misericordia (*vjd.*) pro eodem}, Willelmus Wym[er] in misericordie (*vjd.*) pro eodem (*In margin ijs., vjd.*).<sup>3</sup>

Radulfus de Lullinton in misericordia pro assise fracta, condonatur per ballivum.

Robertus atte Were in misericordia pro eadem, condonatur per dominum.

Willelmus de Rideware distringatur pro defalto.<sup>4</sup>

Willelmus de Strethay similiter.<sup>5</sup>

Robertus Faber de Hedenighale summoniatur quod sit ad

Gilbert, essoins himself for the first time. At the next Court on the 8th October, Richard, son of Gilbert, essoins himself for the second time, and John by a clerical error is called the son of Walter. On the 29th October Richard, the son of Gilbert de Fradley, essoins himself for the third time against John de Herton. On the 10th December this suit ends by John, the son of William de Fradley, surrendering in open court to Richard, the son of Gilbert, all his right to a message and four acres of land in Fradley.

<sup>1</sup> This suit of Gilbert Owen against Gilbert Amelot is not subsequently mentioned in these rolls.

<sup>2</sup> Eleanor of Edingale gives 2s. for an enquiry to be held about the message now in the tenure of Ralph Freford in Edingale, and the enquiry is to be held at the next Court, when Nicholas, the son of Geoffrey of Edingale, and Eleanor, his wife, quitclaim all their right to the said message to the said Ralph.

<sup>3</sup> Other names have been scratched out with a pen-knife and are quite illegible. *Rotarius* is the wheelwright. *Botulweston* is the name Botulph.

<sup>4</sup> No doubt for default in not doing his suit service at Court. He is constantly in trouble on this account. See note on p. 91 and Vol. X, New Series, p. 251.

<sup>5</sup> See p. 107, note 3.

proximam curiam respondere Willelmo filio Galfridi de placito terre.<sup>1</sup>

Curia apud Alrewas die Lune in festo decollationis sancti Johannis Baptisti anno r.r. H. Ivj<sup>o</sup> (29th August, 1272).

Ricardus filius Gilberti (essoniatus se) contra Johannem filium Willelmi de Frodeley de placito terre, j<sup>o</sup>.<sup>2</sup>

Symon filius Prepositi per Robertum Fabrum de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Robertus Faber de Hedenighale [essoniatus se] contra Willelmum Macurneys per Willelmum Badde de placito terre, j<sup>o</sup>.<sup>3</sup>

Johannes Gyn per Robertum filium Johannis de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Henricus Faber per Robertum filium Hode de communi, ij<sup>o</sup>.

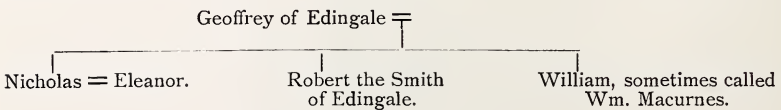
Ricardus Pistor per Thomam le Paum[er] de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Henricus Forestar[ius] per Johannem Poper de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.<sup>4</sup>

Gilbertus Partric in misericordia (vj*d.*) quia detenuit iiijs. and vj*d.* Willelmo Fox et Henrico Woderove in de conventionione injuste. Plegius, Robertus filius Radulphi.<sup>5</sup>

Datus est dies Ricardo Mogge et Roberto Batemon ad

<sup>1</sup> This is the beginning of a suit between two brothers. (See p. 117, note 2.) Robert the Smith of Edingale, and William, the son of Geoffrey, sometimes called William Macurneys. On the 29th August William is fined 6*d.* because he had sued Robert by means of the king's writ before the itinerant judges at Lichfield instead of before Sir John de Sumervile at his free court at Alrewas, who both wished and was able to do him full justice. On the same day Robert essoined himself for the first time, and on the 8th October for the second time. On the 29th October the suit ended and William was fined for his false claim to the land in Edingale, for which he had sued by the king's writ. This suit with that detailed on p. 111, note 2, gives the following pedigree:—



<sup>2</sup> See p. 110, note 6.

<sup>3</sup> See note 1 above.

<sup>4</sup> Henry Forestar[ius] is probably the same man as Henry Woderove, *i.e.*, the woodreeve who is constantly essoining himself about this time. On the 5th April, 1269, he occurs as Henry le Bern[e]. See p. 97, note 3, and p. 134, note 2. Richard Wuderove occurs in 1244, Vol. X, p. 256.

<sup>5</sup> See p. 110, note (2).

faciendam concordam inter eos citra proximam curiam sine essonia et sine delatione.<sup>1</sup>

Willelmus Macurneys in misericordia (*vid.*) quia tulit breve domini regis coram Justiciarios itinerantos apud Lychfeld super dominum J de Sumervile qui plene rectum ei voluit tenere et potuit in libera (?) curia sua de Alrewas.<sup>2</sup>

Preceptum est per totam curiam quod Willelmus de Rideware melius dstringatur pro pluribus defaltis.<sup>3</sup>

Memorandum quod Nicholas filius Galfridi de Hedenighale et Alianora uxor sua quietum clamavit (*sic*) totum jus suum quod habuit vel habere potuit Radulfo de Freford in uno mesuagio quod dixit esse jus suum in villa de Hedenighale. Ita quod de cetero dictus Nicholas nee Alianora uxor sua per se nec per aliquum de suis in dicto messuagio aliquam calumpniam habere potuit.<sup>4</sup>

Willelmus Martin in misericordia (*vjd.*) quia dedit vadium et plegium invenit Ade Preposito super Robertum fratrum suum de transgressione et noluit sequi.<sup>5</sup>

Henricus Prepositus in misericordia {*vjd.*} pro assissa fracta ; condonatur per dominum.

Nicholas Rotarius (*as in preceding entry*).

Johannis filius Willelmi ponit loco suo Gibert Chedric in curia de Alrewas ad prosequendum si personaliter interesse non potest.<sup>6</sup>

*(The following Courts are on the back of this Roll.)*

Curia de Alrewas die Sabbati proxima post octavas sancti Michaelis anno r.r. H. lvj<sup>o</sup> (*Saturday, 8th October, 1272*).

<sup>1</sup> See p. 103, note 3.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 112, note 1.

<sup>3</sup> See Vol. X, New Series, p. 251, note 2.

<sup>4</sup> See p. 111, note 2. *Calumpniam* = claim.

<sup>5</sup> This probably means that William is fined 6*d.* because he pledged himself and also found a surety before Adam the Provost that he would prosecute Robert, his brother, for some trespass and now he is unwilling to do this. The Provost or Reeve was the executive officer of the court and acted on the strength of its decision.

<sup>6</sup> See p. 110, note 6.

Ricardus Piscator [essoniat se] per Robertum filium Hody de communi [secta], j<sup>o</sup>.

Thomas Edemon per Robertum filium Roberti versus Dominum, j<sup>o</sup>.<sup>1</sup>

Walterus Beryn de Hedenighale per Galfridum le Somen,' j<sup>o</sup>.<sup>2</sup>

Robertus Faber de Hedeinghale [essoniat se] per Robertum filium Walteri contra Willelmum Macurneys, de placito terre, ij<sup>o</sup>.<sup>3</sup>

Robertus filius Reginaldi per Willelmum filius Hokbe (?) de communi [secta], j<sup>o</sup>.

Willelmus Bernard per Robertum filium Johannis de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Henricus Fader per Johannem Clericum de communi, iij<sup>o</sup>. Plegius, Symon filius Prepositi.

Ricardus filius Gilberti per Johannem Peper versus Johannem filium Walteri de placito terre, ij<sup>o</sup>.<sup>4</sup>

Johannes Gyn per Willelmum Clericum de communi [secta], ij<sup>o</sup>.

Willelmus de Rideware distringatur pro pluribus defaultis.

Batemon de Borewey in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro transgressione facta versus Ricardum Mogge. Plegius, Willelmus Fox.<sup>5</sup>

Nicholas Bonde in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro assisa fracta.

Willelmus Adam in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro eodem.

Thomas de Botulweston<sup>6</sup> in misericordie pro eodem ; condonatur per dominum.

Galfridus filius Gilberti le Bedel in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro consimili.<sup>7</sup>

Henricus Prepositus in misericordie pro eodem ; condonatur per dominum.

<sup>1</sup> This is the beginning of a suit between Thomas Edemon elsewhere (p. 131) called Thomas the son of Edemon and one Lord. Here Thomas essoins himself for the first time by Robert the son of Robert. At the next court (p. 115) he essoins himself for the second time by William the son of Robert and his adversary is called John the Fisher. On the 10th Dec., Thomas is amerced but his fine is remitted. It may be added that a John Lord occurs on 26th July, 1269 (see p. 100, note 2).

<sup>2</sup> See p. 100, note 4, for the name *Beryn* and Vol. X, p. 253, for the duties of Geoffrey the Summoner or Beadle.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 112, note 1.

<sup>4</sup> See p. 110, note 6.

<sup>5</sup> See p. 103, note 3.

<sup>6</sup> *Botulweston*, i.e., Botolph

<sup>7</sup> See note 2 above.



Robertus de Gors de Hedenighale in misericordia pro eodem ; condonatur per dominum.<sup>1</sup>

Johannes Burdon de eadem in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro eodem.

Henricus Faber de eadem in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro eodem.

Henricus Pistor in misericordia (xij*d.*) eo quod vendidit carnes putridas et pravas in villa de Alrewas.<sup>2</sup>

Willelmus Martin in misericordia (xij*d.*) pro consimili.

Curia de Alrewas die Sabbati proxima post festum apostolorum Simonis et Jude anno r. r. H. lvij<sup>o</sup>. (*Saturday, 29 October, 1272*).

Rogerus Faber de Croxhale [essoinat se] per Robertum garcionem Roberti fabri de communi [secta], j<sup>o</sup>.

Robertus filius Auwys per Johannem Peper de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Johannes Gyn per Willelmum filium Roberti de communi, ij<sup>o</sup>.

Ricardus filius Gilberti de Frodeley [essoinat se] per Robertus filium Johannis versus Johannem de Herton de placito terre ij<sup>o</sup>. Plegii, Robertus ad Fontem et Robertus filius Ede.<sup>3</sup>

Willelmus filium Walteri per Robertum filium Hodi de communi [secta], j<sup>o</sup>.

Thomas Edemon per Willelmum filium Roberti versus Johannem Piscatorem de placito transgressionis ij<sup>o</sup>.<sup>4</sup>

Simon filius Prepositi per Johannem filium Henrici Faber, j<sup>o</sup>.

Willelmus de Rideware essoinat se per Ricardum filium Galfridi, primo, post pluribus defaultis et sunt? plegii sui veniendi, Galfridus Clericus, et Johannis Aiwen et calumpni[atur] quod pluribus (?) fecit defaultam.<sup>5</sup>

Radulfus Piscator de Wysch[nor] queritur de Rogero filio

<sup>1</sup> *de Gors*. He occurs as *de Gros* in the next two courts. The scribe is often very careless. He should have written *le Gros*.

<sup>2</sup> Henry the Baker is fined 12*d.* because he sold putrid and bad meat in the vill of Alrewas.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 110, note 6.

<sup>4</sup> See p. 114, note 1.

<sup>5</sup> William de Rideware essoins himself by Richard for the first time after many defaults in his suit service, and these are his sureties that he will come, viz., Geoffrey the Clerk and John Aiwen, and it is claimed that on several occasions he made default. See note on p. 91.

Nolbe de Alrewas,—plegius, prosequende W. Fox—quod ipse detinet ijs. et vjd. de quibus posuit dictum Radulfum in plegio versus Nicholam Botulweston et dictus? Rogerus contradixit dictum Radulfum de verbo ad verbum et est ad legem.<sup>1</sup>

Rogerus filius Nolbe in misericordia quia vadiat legem versus Radulfum piscatorem et noluit plegios invenire de lege. Ideo conservatum est per totam curiam quod defec de lege ponitur in respectum ad indendum quomodo steterit (?) in manerio. Et nota quod invenit {in pi'} de fidelitate videlicet Gilbertus Alwyn et Willelmus Fox.<sup>2</sup>

Presentat est per francos plegios in suo veredico quod Robertus filius Radulfi posuit corballum in aquam domini sine licencia ad capiendos pisces domini. Ideo in misericordia (xld.) per conservatum totius curie.<sup>3</sup>

Johannes Burdon queritur de Galfrido Clerico quod idem Galfridus verberavit dictum J. et sanguinem ab eo traxit. Plegii prosequendi, Thomas ad chyele et Walterus Bern.<sup>4</sup>

Rogerus filius Galfridi Suan dat domino iijsoł. ad habendam inquisitionem de terra qua fuit Galfridi Suan, uterum propinquor heres est vel non.<sup>5</sup>

Willelmus Fox in misericordia pro assisa fracta (vjd.).

<sup>1-2</sup> Ralph complains that Roger detains 2s. 6d. of the moneys that Roger had made Ralph responsible for in his plea against Nicholas Botulph, and the said Roger contradicts the said Ralph word by word and is to wage his law (for an explanation of these technical terms see Vol. X, New Series, pp. 262 and 266). In the next entry Roger is at the mercy of the lord because he ought to wage his law against Ralph and yet is unwilling to find sureties so to do. Therefore it is considered by the whole court that the question of this default should be put in respite to be dealt with in the manner usual in the manor. And be it known that Roger finds as sureties for his fealty Gilbert and William Fox. The use of *conservatum* in place of *consideratum* shows the kind of Latinity one has to deal with in these rolls.

<sup>3</sup> Frank pledges. See p. 128, note 3, *corballum*, a basket.

<sup>4</sup> John complains that Geoffrey struck him and drew his blood. His sureties for prosecuting are Thomas at the style and Walter Bern or Beryn of Edingale. At the next court Geoffrey, the Clerk of Edingale, is in the mercy for this offence, but no fine is named because John refused to prosecute. Hence John is fined 12d., p. 119, notes 1 and 5.

<sup>5</sup> Geoffrey Swan.

Thomas Bernard in misericordia pro eodem, condonatur per Dominum.

Simon filius Prepositi in misericordie pro eodem ; condonatur per Senescallum.<sup>1</sup>

Robertus Faber in misericordie pro eodem ; condonatur per Dominum.

Robertus de Gros de Hedenighale in misericordie pro eodem ; condonatur per Dominum.

Thomas Alwyne in misericordie (vjd.) pro eodem.

[*The following is on a roll sewn on to the last.*]

Willelmus Macurnes in misericordia versus Robertum fratrum suum pro falsa querela per breve domini regis super quamdam terra in ville de Hedenighale. Plegii (*a line then*) et breve suum et loquelam versus dictum Robertum (*illegible*) per iudicum.<sup>2</sup>

Preceptum est per totam curiam quod dominus Johannis de Sumervile sumoniatur ad proximam curiam {coram} contra Aliciam le Blude primo quod dictum J placitat per breve domini regis.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This is almost the only mention of the Steward in these rolls. Usually his subordinate, the Bailiff, presides at Alrewas and remits these fines.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 112, note 1.

<sup>3</sup> This suit is of exceptional importance inasmuch as it shows a Court ordering its own Lord to be summoned to appear before it and subsequently (p. 119, note 4) issuing a distraint upon its Lord when he disregarded the summons.

On the 20th June, 1272, there was an assize, etc., at Lichfield, before the itinerant judges there as to whether John de Somerville had unjustly disseised Alice, daughter of Geoffrey le Whyte of a messuage and half a virgate of land in Alrewas. John pleaded that Alrewas was of the ancient demesne of the king in which no writ ran except the little writ of right close, so the suit was dismissed (*S.H.C.*, IV, p. 193, *cf. S.H.C.*, X, New Series, p. 250).

Hence, no doubt, Alice obtained a Little Writ of Right addressed to the President of John's own Court at Alrewas, in consequence of which the whole court ordered that John should be summoned at the next Court to appear against Alice le Blude, and there plead in accordance with the king's writ. Le Blude is an obvious mistake for le Blunde, the blond person or—in English—White. At the next Court, Alice, daughter of Geoffrey Blun (*sic*) offered herself against John, and he had been summoned by trustworthy witnesses, but did not appear, so the court ordered that he should be distrained upon. There is no further mention of this suit on these Rolls perhaps because the king had died, but it is possible that Alice herself died before

Inquiratur ad proximam curiam de transgressione facta inter Radulfum de Lullinton et Willelmum Halpeny.

[*Here is a blank space on the roll.*]

Curia apud Alrewas die Sabbati proximam post conceptionem beate Marie anno r. r. H. lvij (*Saturday, 10 December, 1272*).<sup>1</sup>

Willelmus Edriam [essoniat se] de communi [secta] per Reginaldum filium Henrici, j<sup>o</sup>.

Richardus Piscator de com : per Robertum filium Hodi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Henricus Fader de com : per Johannem filium suum, j<sup>o</sup>.

Henricus Woderoue de com : per Robertum filium Johannis, j<sup>o</sup>.

Robertus Koc[us] de com : per Galfridum filium Walteri, j<sup>o</sup>.

Willelmus Martin de com : per Robertum filium Walteri, j<sup>o</sup>.

Symon filium Prepositi de com : per Willelmus filium Roberti, j<sup>o</sup>.

Robertus Faber de Hedenighale de com : per Thomam filium Henrici, j<sup>o</sup>.

Willelmus de Strethey de com : per filium Alani de Wyginton, j<sup>o</sup>.

Willelmus de Rideware vadiat misericordiam per manum suum pro pluribus defaultis. Plegius Robertus de Gros de Hedenighale.<sup>2</sup>

the next Court, which was held on 14th Jan., 1272-3, and that the following entry at that Court refers to this suit. It is there stated that Nicholas, son of Alice, gave 4s. to the lord to have seisin of one virgate of land in Alrewas that Alice his mother had held (p. 120).

Several years before the date of this action, viz., on the 7th Oct., 1259, all the men of Edingale were amerced 2s. for concealing Geoffrey White, then written Albus (Vol. X, New Series, p. 268), and this entry may afford some clue as to why and when it was that the lord seised this land.

For further information about the writs in manors of Ancient Demesne such as Alrewas, see the Chapter on Ancient Demesne in *Villainage in England*, by Prof. Vinogradoff.

<sup>1</sup> Henry III. died 16th Nov. 1272, but the news of his death evidently had not reached Alrewas when these rolls were written.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 115, note 5 ; *vadiat misericordiam*—finds security for the amercement.

Galfridus Clericus de Hedeinghale in misericordia quia verberavit Johannem Burdun et sanguinem ab eo traxit. Plegii, Thomas ate Sciele et Walterus Beryn.<sup>1</sup>

Memorandum quod Iohannis filius Willelmi de Frodeley reddit sursum in plena curia Ricardo filio Gilberti totum jus suum quod habuit in uno messuagio et quatuor acris terre in Frodele et dat domino xij*d.*<sup>2</sup>

Thomas Edemon in misericordia versus Johannem Piscatorem. Condonatur.<sup>3</sup>

Alicia filia Galfridi Blun (*sic*) optulit se versus Johannem de Sumervile et summonitus fuit per testes et non venit et consideratum est quod primo distringatur.<sup>4</sup>

Johannes Burdun in misericordia (xij*d.*) quia venit pleg[ios] prosequendi querelam suam versus Galfridum Clericum et noluit sequi.<sup>5</sup>

Gilbertus Kidde in misericordia pro vir[ide] in bosco domini. Plegius condonatur per ballivum.<sup>6</sup>

Hugo Bernard distringatur pro viride.<sup>6</sup>

Falin (vj*d.*), Robertus filius Auwys (vj*d.*), Henricus Prepositus (condonatur), Eliot Aylmer (vj*d.*), in misericordia pro assisa fracta.

Datum est dies usque ad proximam curiam ad inquirendum de transgressionibus factis de molend[ino] domini per Adam Cribald.<sup>7</sup>

Presentatum est per totam curiam quod nemo de manerio de Alrewas debet intrare aliquam terram post decessum antecessoris sui nisi ad voluntatem domini per finem factam nisi sex liberi.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See p. 116, note 4.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 110, note 6.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 114, note 1.

<sup>4</sup> See p. 117, note 3.

<sup>5</sup> See p. 116, note 4.

<sup>6</sup> *viride*—vert or green wood, which he had cut down in the lord's wood, see p. 120, note 2.

<sup>7</sup> There is no record of the enquiry at the next court, but Adam is "in mercy" for this offence on 25th February, 1272-3.

<sup>8</sup> Note the fact that it is the whole court—not the lord—which decrees that no one in this manor may enter upon any land after the death of his ancestor except at the will of the lord after paying a fine to him, but this rule does not apply to the six free socmen. The privileged king's socmen were another feature of manors of ancient demesne. In 1341 there were nine free socmen here. *S.H.C.*, X, New Series, p. 254.

Curia apud Alrewas die Sabbati in crastino sancti Hyllarii anno domini mclclxxij. (*Saturday, 14 January, 1272'3*).<sup>1</sup>

Ricardus Piscator [essoniat se] per Johannem Peper[um] de communi [secta], ij<sup>o</sup>.

Galfridus Edwyne per Robertus filius Hodi, j<sup>o</sup>.

(*Here is a blank space.*)

Eliot Aylmer in misericordie (vj*d.*) pro vir[ide] quia warantia- vit {Gilbertum Kidde} Hugonem Bernard qui sindit (*sic*) viridem in bosco domini.<sup>2</sup>

Adam Falyn in misericordie (vj*d.*) pro assisa fracta.

Uxor Roberti Hayin in misericordie (vj*d.*) pro eodem.

Alanus Poncer<sup>3</sup> in misericordie (vj*d.*) pro eodem.

Hugo de Slanley in misericordie (vj*d.*) pro eodem.

Willelmus Hodam in misericordie (*blank*) pro eodem.

Simon filius Prepositi in misericordie (vj*d.*) pro eodem.

Henricus Prepositus in misericordie (vj*d.*) pro eodem.

Nicholas Rotarius in misericordie (vj*d.*) pro eodem.

Robertus Faber in misericordie (vj*d.*) pro eodem, condonatur per dominum.

Nicholas filius Alicie dat domino iiij solidos ad habendam seysinam unius virgate terre in Alrewas quam Alicie mater ejus tenuit.<sup>4</sup>

De heriet[is] Ricardi le Paum[er] de Orgrave (vj*d.*)<sup>5</sup>

De her[ietis] Walteri ad Molendinum de Alrewas (vj*d.*)

Nicholas Kenewerht in misericordia (iiij*d.*) pro viride in bosco domini pertinente ad manerium de Alrewas.

Galfridus filius Alicie in misericordia pro eodem, condonatur pro paupertate.

Willelmus de Slantley in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro eodem.

Robertus filius Hauwis in misericordie pro eodem, pleg.

<sup>1</sup> It is not until the 6th May that the scribe dates by the regnal years of Edward I.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 119, note 6.

<sup>3</sup> See Vol. X, New Series, p. 272, note 5.

<sup>4</sup> See p. 117, note 3.

<sup>5</sup> The lord gets 6*d.* for the heriots that are payable by the heir of Richard the Palmer of Orgrave.

Gilbertus Alwyne in misericordie (vj*d.*) pro eodem.

Ricardus Mogge in misericordia pro imparcamento averii sui in parco domini apud Wych[nor].

Ricardus filius Auwys in misericordia pro eodem.

Gilbertus in Cimiterio in misericordia pro eodem.

Willelmus ad caput ville in misericordia pro eodem.

(*In the margin opposite the last four entries is "viiij solidos."*)<sup>1</sup>

Curia apud Alrewas die Sabbati proxima post purificationem beate Marie anno domini mclclxxij<sup>o</sup>. (*Saturday, 4 February, 1272'3.*)

Johannes Gyn [essoniat se] per Robertum filium Johannis de communi secta, j<sup>o</sup>.

Robertus filius Reginaldi per Willelmum filium Roberti, j<sup>o</sup>.

Willelmus Fox per Robertum filium Hodi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Datum est dies Roberto Goybert et Willelmo Martin et Simoni filio Prepositi ad faciendam concordam inter eos de transgressione citra proximam curiam adsolvand' jus cur.<sup>2</sup>

Datum est dies Willelmo Edrian et ceteris juratoribus ad inquirandum (?) de veritate dicenda de Henrico Molendario qui dicit transgressionem factam in molendino versus Robertum Wole, usque ad proximam curiam. Et dictus Robertus plegios invenit adveniendi ad proximam curiam videlicet Simon filius Prepositi et Willelmus ad Sywethi mulne.<sup>3</sup>

Galfridus filius Galfridi in misericordia (iiij*d.*) pro viride in bosco domini. Plegii, Robertus Prepositus et Ricardus Josep.

<sup>1</sup> It is not clear whether these men were fined for grazing the cattle in the lord's park at Wichnor or whether each of them had a beast that had strayed and been impounded in the lord's pound there.

<sup>2</sup> At the next court Robert is amerced 8*d.* for this suit against William and Simon and the latter are sureties for Robert. Probably the suit was a friendly one.

<sup>3</sup> A day is given at the next Court to Wm. Edrian and the other jurors to enquire as to the truth of what is alleged by Henry the Miller, who says that a trespass was made in the mill against Robert Wole. And Robert finds sureties that he will appear (and prosecute the offenders) at the next Court, to wit, Simon the son of the Provost and William at the Sievingmill.

At the next Court (p. 123, note 5) it is found that the trespass was made by Henry's own son, who is of his household (*manupastus*) so Henry himself is adjudged to be in mercy for the trespass. Cf. p. 97, note 2.

Galfridus Godladde distringatur ad prosequendum vad[ium] suum captum in bosco domini.<sup>1</sup>

Hugo de Helmhurst distringatur pro consimili.<sup>1</sup>

Hede de Frodeley in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro viride in bosco domini.<sup>2</sup>

Willelmus Bernard in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro transgressione facta versus Hugonem fratrum suum. Plegius Thomas Bernard.

Hysoude Lotrix in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro assisa fracta.<sup>3</sup>

Adam Falin in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro eodem et pro prava servicie.

Ricardus Faber in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro eodem.

Robertus filius Hauwys in misericordia pro eodem ; condonatur per dominum.

Thomas Edemon in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro eodem.

Alanus Poncer in misericordia pro eodem ; condonatur per dominum.

Nicholas Rotarius in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro eodem.

Ricardus Piscator in misericordia eodem ; condonatur per dominum.

Willelmus filius Reginaldi in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro prava servicie et assisa fracta.

Thomas de Botulweston in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro eodem.

Curia apud Alrewas die Sabbati proxima post festum sancti Petri in Cathedra anno domini m*cc*lxx secundo (*Saturday, 25 February, 1272*·3).

Henricus Fader [essoniat se] per Johannem filium ejus de communi [secta], j<sup>o</sup>.

Radulfus de Ferford<sup>4</sup> de Hedenighale per Robertum filium Hodi, j<sup>o</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Geoffrey was distrained so as to compel him to look after his surety (some animal which he had pledged) which had been caught in the lord's wood. At the next Court (p. 123, note 3) he is fined 4 fowls (iiii gall<sup>l</sup>) for (carrying off) vert, and Hugh was fined 4*d.*

<sup>2</sup> Hede of Frodeley was the daughter of [John] Lord, alias Fisher, see p. 114, note 1, and *S.H.C.*, X, New Series, p. 292, note 1.

<sup>3</sup> *Hysoude Lotrix*, i.e., Isolda the Laundress. On p. 125 the name is spelt *Isoude*, and she may be the same as *Eysude ad simiterium* (p. 128) Isolda at the cemetery.

<sup>4</sup> *Ferford*—a mistake for Freford, see p. 111, note 2, etc.



Rogerus Faber de Croxhale per Robertum Fabrum, j<sup>o</sup>.

Alanus Piscator per Willelmum filium Roberti versus Henricum de Strethay, j<sup>o</sup>.

Henricus de Strethay queritur de Alano Piscatori [et] dicit quod objuravit (?) eum in regia via in boscode Strethay et ibi eum verberavit. Plegius de prosequendi, Willelmus de Strethay et Alanus essoniat se versus dictum Henricum, nihilominus preceptum est quod distringatur.<sup>1</sup>

Robertus Goybert in misericordia (vij*d.*) versus Willelmus Martin et Simonem Prepositum. Plegii, Willelmus Martin et Simon filius Prepositi.<sup>2</sup>

Galfridus Godladde in misericordia (iiij gall.) pro viride.<sup>3</sup>

Hugo de Helmhurst in misericordia (iiij*d.*) pro consimili.<sup>3</sup>

Eliot Almer in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro assisa fracta.

Willelmus Adam in misericordia pro eodem ; condonatur per ballivum.

Willelmus at Sywthimulne in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro eodem.

Henricus Prepositus in misericordia (ix*d.*) pro eodem ; bis.

Nicholas Rotarius in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro eodem.

Robertus Faber in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro eodem ; condonatur per dominum.

Robertus filius Edde de Frodeley (vj*d.*) pro eodem.<sup>4</sup>

Uxor Gilberti de Frodeley (vj*d.*) pro eodem.

Andreas de Stokes (vj*d.*) pro eodem.

Ricardus Mogge de Orgrave (vj*d.*) pro eodem.

Radulfus de Lullington (vj*d.*) pro eodem.

Henricus Molendarius in misericordia pro transgressione facta in molendinum per filium suum qui est manupastus dicti Henrici, Plegii, Willelmus Fox et Thomas Bernard.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Here are details as to an action of "maledixit." Henry complains of Alan, and says that he swore at him in the king's high way in Strethay wood and struck him there. And Alan essoins himself—see preceding entry—nevertheless the Court orders that he is distrained upon to appear. Alan essoins himself for the second and third time at the next two Courts but on the 15th June he has to find security for the amercement because he struck Henry, though finally he is pardoned.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 121, note 2.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 122, note 1.

<sup>4</sup> See p. 122, note 2.

<sup>5</sup> See p. 121 note 3.

Adam Cribald in misericordia pro eodem. Plegii (*blank*).<sup>1</sup>

Galfridus Clericus et ceteri homines Willelmi de Rideware distringantur veniendi ad proximam curiam respunsur' (*sic*) quod de diversis articulis pertinentur maneris (*sic*) de Alrewas.

Curia apud Alrewas die Sabbati proxima post festum sancti Gregori anno domini mclxx secundo (*Saturday, 18 March, 1272-3.*)

Johannes Gym [essoniat se] per Robertum filium Johannis de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Willelmus Martin per Johannem Hayin, j<sup>o</sup>.

Willelmus de Borewey per Robertum Goybert de communi j<sup>o</sup>.

Halanus Piscator per Willelmum Clericum versus Henricum de Strethay de placito transgressionis, ij<sup>o</sup>.<sup>2</sup>

Willelmus Fox per Thomam Eddemon de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Henricus Prepositus in misericordia (*vjd.*) pro assisa fracta.

Hysoude Lotrix in misericordia (*vjd.*) pro eodem.

Willelmus de Borewey in misericordia (*vjd.*) pro eodem.

Symon Prepositus in misericordia (*vjd.*) pro eodem.

Nicholas Bonde in misericordia pro assisa fracta et pro prava [cervicie ?] Condonatur per ballivo pro paupertate.

Thomas de Botulph (*vjd.*) pro prava [cervicie ?]

Willelmus atte Sywithimulne in misericordia (*iiijd.*) pro transgressionis facta in bosco domini de viride.

*(Here there is a blank space in the Roll.)*

*[The next Court is on the other side of the Roll.]*

Curia apud Alrewas die Sabbati videlicet in festa sancti Johannis ante portam Latinam anno r. r. Edward 1<sup>o</sup> (*Saturday, 6 May, 1273.*)

Alanus Piscator [essoniat se] per Thomam Palm[arium] versus Henricum de Strethay de placito transgressionis, tercio. Plegii. Robertus filius Hauwys, Galfridus filius Nicholai.<sup>2</sup>

Robertus filius Radulfi [essoniat se] per Willelmum filius Roberti, j<sup>o</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> See p. 119, note 7.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 123, note 1.

Johannes Gyn per Robertum filium Hodi, ij<sup>o</sup>.

Willelmus Martin per Henricum Molendinarium, ij<sup>o</sup>.

Adam Pacikaue (?) per Reginaldum Gamel, j<sup>o</sup>.

Agnes vidua de Frodeley per Ricardum filium Huberti, j<sup>o</sup>.

Rogerus filius Willelmi Edrian dat domino iiij solidos adhuc pro licentia habenda se maritare ad Edam viduam et terram dicte Ede habenda.<sup>1</sup>

De herieto Nicholai le Broune, vjd.

De herieto Gilberto filio Galfridi Suthne, ijs. iijd.<sup>2</sup>

Memorandum quod Ricardus Barum cepit quandam placeam terre in mora de Alrewas de domino J. de Sumervile et dat domino feodi de annuali reddito ijd. ad quatuor anni terminos.

Memorandum quod Reginald Gadeling cepit quandam placeam terre de Rogero Wytemay ad terminum viginti annorum in villa de Alrewas (*in margin* iiijd.).

Willelmus Martin bis contra assisam pandoxavit. Ideo in misericordie xijd.

Isouda Lotrix in misericordie (vj<sup>d.</sup>) pro eodem.

Henricus Molendarius (vj<sup>d.</sup>) pro eodem.

Alanus Poncer (vj<sup>d.</sup>) pro eodem.

Eliot Aylmer (vj<sup>d.</sup>) pro eodem.

Adam Falin (vj<sup>d.</sup>) pro eodem.

Hugo de Slanley (vj<sup>d.</sup>) pro eodem.

Ricardus Fad[ir] (?) (vj<sup>d.</sup>) pro eodem.

Nicholas le Bonde (vj<sup>d.</sup>) pro eodem.

Robertus filius Hauwis (vj<sup>d.</sup>) pro eodem.

Willelmus Hodam (vj<sup>d.</sup>) pro eodem.

Henricus Prepositus (xijd.) pro eodem bis.

Nicholas Rotarius (vj<sup>d.</sup>) pro eodem.

Robertus Faber pro eodem, bis, condonatur.

Ricardus Piscator (vj<sup>d.</sup>) pro eodem.

Robertus filius Reginaldi (vj<sup>d.</sup>) pro eodem.

Radulfus de Lullinton (xijd.) pro eodem, bis.

Memorandum quod Alanus Poncer de Wichnor quietum

<sup>1</sup> Roger gave the lord 4 shillings for leave to marry Ede, the widow, and to have her land. Perhaps this was Ede of Fradley. See p. 122, note 2.

<sup>2</sup> Geoffrey, the southerner, occurs in 1243. *S.H.C.*, X, New Series, p. 255.

clamavit totum jus suum quod habuit vel habere potuit in duabus acris terre, que quondam fuerunt Willelmo Hubert, Ricardo filio Gilberti filii Galfridi de Frodeley in perpetuum. Et dictus Ricardus nullum redditum nec servicium dicto Alano nec alicui nomine sua pro dicta terra reddet nec domino feodi.<sup>1</sup>

Et sic concessit Robertus ad Fontem de Frodeley et Gilbertus Chudric (*Cedric*) (*Gilbert's name is written above the line*) pro quodam tofto in Frodelei quod redditum nec servicium de dicto Ricardo pro se nec aliqui nomine sua exigebat nec ad opus domini feodi in perpetuum.<sup>1</sup>

Et sic concessit Willelmus filius Ricardi Hubert de Frodeley pro una acre terre dicto Ricardo in modo forma proscripta.<sup>1</sup>

Curia apud Alrewas die Jovis proxima post festum sancti Bernabe apostoli, anno domini MCCLXXIIJ (15 June, 1273).

Henricus le Sothne : [essoniat se] per Robertum filium Hodi de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.<sup>2</sup>

Walterus le Bern per Galfridum Clericum de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Johannes Gyn per Willelmum filium Reginaldi de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Robertus Kocus per Robertum Balle de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Radulfus Forestarius de Croxhale per Robertum filium suum de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Alanus Piscator vadiat misericordiam quia verberavit Henricum de Strethay. Plegii ; Johannes Modus, Robertus filius Hauwys : condonatur.<sup>3</sup>

Memorandum quod Henricus Fader dedit cum filia sua Rosa cujusdam (?) mesuagium de curtilagio suo cum ij dimidiis acris terre arrabilis cum una noka prati Hugoni de Longedon in libere maritagio cum predicta Rosa, reddendi inde annuatim (*here several words have been scratched out*) dicto Henrico Fader vj

<sup>1</sup> Evidently all these were sales of free land from which the lord of the fee could demand neither rent, services or work. So far as these lands were concerned, Richard must have been one of the six free socmen. See p. 119, note 8. It looks as though his grandfather, Geoffrey of Fradley, were identical with Geoffrey the Southerner. See p. 125, note 2, and *cf.* the entry on p. 123 *re* the wife of Gilbert of Fradley.

<sup>2</sup> Henry the Southerner.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 123, note 1. For *Modus* see Vol. X, New Series, p. 267, note 3.

denarios ad predictos terminos. (*In margin* pro fine xijd. de Hugone de Longedon, ijs. de Henrico Fader.)<sup>1</sup>

Juliana de Brontistun (*Branston*) invenit plegios scilicet Robertum filium Valteri, Willelmum Ceblone (?), Willelmum de Vinsul, Willelmum Honfrei ad [h]abendam quoddam jumemtum ad voluntatem domini vel precium iij sol.<sup>2</sup>

Robertus ad Fontem de Frodele dabit domino xijd. ad fidelem inquisitionem habendam super quandam placeam prati quam dictus Robertus petit de Simone Preposito, jure hereditate.<sup>3</sup>

Memorandum quod Radulfus de la Bache concessit et in plena curia tradidit Ricardo Barun unam placeam terre arrabilis, jacentem extra villam de Frodele; habendam et tenendam sibi et heredibus suis vel assingnatis suis libere quiete bene et in pace jure her[editate] in perpetuum. Reddendo inde annuatim mihi et heredibus meis vel assingnatis meis vj denarios pro omni servitio consuetudine secta curie et alia qualiscunque demanda secularia. Et ego vero predictus Radulfus et heredes mei totam predictam terram, preparato reddito, contra omnes homines et feminas warantizabimus et defendemus in perpetuum.<sup>4</sup>

Memorandum quod Rogerus Wytemay concessit et tradidit Roberto Fabro unam dimidiam acram terre arrabilis jacentem in campo qui vocatur Baginhal inter terram Roberti Pistoris ex una parte et terram dicti Roberti ex altera parte; habendam et tenendam quo usque vj vesturas plenare inde reciperit. Dictus Rogerus concessit dicto Roberto unam aliam dimidiam acram terre arrabilis quo usque vj vesturas inde reciperit.

Radulfus de Lullintun in misericordia (vj*d.*) domini pro assisa servisie fracta.

Ricardus Faber in misericordia (vj*d.*) domini pro assisa servisie fracta et prava.

Nicholas Bonde in misericordia (vj*d.*) domini pro eodem.

<sup>1</sup> *noka*—nook. The quantity of land is uncertain, but the term, a nook of land, is not quite obsolete in Staffordshire. It should be noted that the settlor pays twice as much as the settlee to the lord.

<sup>2</sup> Julian stands pledged to find a draught horse at the bidding of the lord, or to pay three shillings.

<sup>3</sup> There is no record of the result of this enquiry.

<sup>4</sup> *preparato*—except.

Walentinus bis braciavit et assisa fracta et prava (*vjd.*).<sup>1</sup>

Eysude ad Simiterium in misericordia (*vjd.*) pro eodem.<sup>2</sup>

Robertus Faber in misericordia (*iiijd.*) pro eodem.

Henricus Prepositus in misericordia (*xijd.*) domini pro assisa servisie fracta et prava.

Margeria Sparr[er] (*iijd.*) pro eodem.

Curia magna apud Alerwas die Veneris proxima ante festum beate Edithe anno domini MCC septuagio tercio (*Friday, 14 July, 1273*).<sup>3</sup>

Henricus Fader essoniat se per Robertum filium Hodi de communi, *j*º.

Robertus Gadeling per Robertum filium Jone de eodem, *j*º.

Willelmus Adam per Johannem filium Henrici de eodem, *j*º ; (*vjd.*) ponitur in respectu.<sup>4</sup>

Willelmus de Rideware per Robertum Vele de eodem, *j*º.

Robertus filius Hawys per Petrum filium Dike de eodem, *j*º.

Adam filius Willelmi Edrian per Reginaldum Gamel, *j*º.

Simon filius Willelmi Prepositi per Robertum filium Radulfi *j*º ; ponitur in respectu (*vjd.*).<sup>4</sup>

Willelmus Fox per Galfrid ad Molendinum de eodem, *j*º.

Willelmus ad Sewesi mulne per Willelmum filium Ricardi Hubard, *j*º.<sup>5</sup>

Gilbertus Aluen per Henricum Clericum de communi, *j*º.

Robertus Faber per Roger Brain de eodem, *j*º.

<sup>1</sup> Valentine brewed on two occasions and broke the assize of beer. He also brewed bad beer. As Valentine the Carpenter he occurs on p. 130.

<sup>2</sup> Isolda at the Churchyard is perhaps identical with Isolda the laundress on p. 122, note 3.

<sup>3</sup> This is the second of the two Great Courts mentioned in these rolls. The first was held on 11 June, 1272. It is also noteworthy as being the first time, and with one exception mentioned on p. 116, note 3, that the ordinary offenders are presented by the Frank pledgers. This word is a corruption of Frith, *i.e.*, Pleace pledgers, and in early days they were almost, if not quite identical, with the *Decennarii* or Tithing men. The Frank pledgers were responsible for keeping order in the vill and seeing that all offenders were brought before the Court to be punished. (See p. 116, note 3, p. 129, note 4, p. 130, note 5, p. 106, note 4, and for further particulars Pollock and Maitland's *History of English Law*, I, p. 556 *et seq.*)

<sup>4</sup> It is not apparent why William and Simon were each fined *6d.*, and the consideration of their essoins adjourned.

<sup>5</sup> See p. 106, note 1.

Willelmus Bernard conqueritur de Roberto filio Radulfo Plegii prosequend, Johannes filius Reginaldi, Willelmus frater suus.<sup>1</sup>

Robertus Faber de Lichfeld in misericordia (ijs.) pro una quercu (?). Plegii, Robertus filius Radulfi, Ad' Budellus.

Ricardus Piscator dabit domino xij denarios eo quod habeat plenam licenciam vendendi unam dimidiam acram terre arrabilis Ricardo filio Ricardi de Oregraue.

Henricus Gunlind (*sic*) vadiadiavit (*sic*) quandum legum contra dominum quod non maledixit (?) de bosco domini. Plegii, Roberti ad Fontem, Simon Huberd.<sup>2</sup>

Reginaldus Hering est ad legem contra predictum Ricardum [Barun] quod non ipsam scandalisit de destructione bosci. Plegii sunt Robertus ad Fontem, Ricardus de la Bruere de Frodeley.<sup>3</sup>

Henricus Faber de Edenighale in misericordia (xij*d.*) domini quia fecit recusum de averiis suis contra francos plegios.<sup>4</sup>

Iohannes Burdun in misericordia (xij*d.*) domini quia posuit manum super predictum Henricum.<sup>5</sup>

Memorandum quod Ricardus Piscator concessit et in plena curia tradidit Ricardo filio Gilberti de Orgrave unam acram terre arrabilis jacentun in campo qui vocatur Stunstull (?); habendam et tenendam de me et heredibus meis sibi et heredibus suis vel asingatis jure hereditate in perpetuum. Reddendo inde annuatim dicto Ricardo et heredibus suis unum obolum ad festum sancti Michaelis.

Radulfus de Bache distringatur pro defalta magn[e] cur[ie] sicut presentatus est per francum plegium.

<sup>1</sup> See p. 131, note 1.

<sup>2</sup> Henry the son of Gunnild of Fradley waged his law against (his) Lord that he had been falsely accused in connection with the Lord's wood. At the next Court he is fined 12*d.*, in the suit against the Lord. Here dominus appears to mean the Lord of the Manor, but the family of "Lord" lived at Fradley. Richard Barun was originally written instead of Lord, but has been struck through. (This is a wager of law in case of false accusation and insult.—P. V.)

<sup>3</sup> Reginald Hering is to wage his law against Richard Barun to prove that he has not accused him of destruction in the wood, but fails to do so and is fined 6*d.* at the next Court.

<sup>4</sup> Henry is fined 12*d.* because "he made a rescue of his animals" when they were in the custody of the Frank pledgers.

<sup>5</sup> *posuit manum super*—laid hands on.

Willelmus Vimer in misericordia (iiij*d.*) domini quia non custodivit carnem quam inventus fuit per Nicholam Pastorem in campo qui vocatur Le Holme. Plegii, Thomas Bernard et Hugo de Slant[ley].<sup>1</sup>

Hawis Bond attachiatur quia marit[averat] sine licencia domini super terram ecclesiasticam.<sup>2</sup>

Robertus de Burway levavit unam forcarn ad nocumentum totius manerii sicut presentatus est per fran[cos] pleg[ios] et ideo ponitur in misericordia (ijs).<sup>3</sup>

Robertus Joberd in misericordia domini quia fecit rapam cum kaserius contra pacem : distringatur.<sup>4</sup>

Presentatum est per francos plegios quod Ricardus le Paumer levavit unam sepem injuste et ad nocumentum totius villud (*sic*) in misericordia (xij*d.*).

Undecim francplegii de Alrewas in misericordia ( $\frac{1}{2}$  marce) domini pro falsa presentatione et pro concelemento effusione sanguinis.<sup>5</sup>

Nicholas le Bonde in misericordia domini pro assisa servisie fracta. Condonatur per dominum.

Alanus Puncer pro eadem assisa servisie fracta et prava. Pardonatur.

Valentinus Carpuntarius pro assisa servicie fracta (vj*d.*).

Henricus Prepositus pro assisa servicie fracta (vj*d.*).

Radulfus de Lodlintun (*Lullington*) pro assisa servicie fracta (vj*d.*).

<sup>1</sup> Because he did not take sufficient care of the beast that had been found by Nicholas Shepherd in Le Holme field." *Caro* is occasionally used in this sense. No doubt it was a stray beast which William had been told to look after by the Shepherd.

<sup>2</sup> This probably means that she had married without the lord's leave, left the manor and had gone to live within the Prebendal Manor. (See Vol. X, New Series, p. 249 and IX, New Series, p. 33). It would be no offence to get married at the church which almost certainly formed part of the Prebendal Manor, and some meaning must be attached to the words *super terram ecclesiasticam*.

<sup>3</sup> He erected a pit for trapping animals, to the injury of the whole manor.

<sup>4</sup> (*rapam cum kaserius*—some kind of enclosure. I have not seen the term elsewhere.—P. V.) See p. 131, note 4.

<sup>5</sup> They are fined 6*s.* 8*d.* for making false presentations and concealing serious affrays in which blood was shed. See p. 128, note 3, and p. 106, note 4.



Robertus filius Radulfi in misericordia (xijd.) domini prout fugavit quoddam jumentum Willelm[i] Bernard in aquam unde mor[tuum] erat.<sup>1</sup>

Curia apud Alrewas die sancti Laurentii martiris anno domini MCC septuagesimo tertio (*Thursday, 10 August, 1273*).

Rogerus Faber de Croxhale essoniat se per Robertum filium Jone de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Henricus Fader per Johannem Peper de eodem, ij<sup>o</sup>.

Ricardus Mogge per Robertum filium Hodi de eodem, j<sup>o</sup>.

Alanus Puncer per Willelmum filium Roberti de eodem, j<sup>o</sup>.

Rogerus filius Nolbe per Thomam filium Edemon, j<sup>o</sup>.

Gilbert Alwyn per Petrum filium Dyke, ij<sup>o</sup>.

Henricus filius Gunild de Frodell in misericordia (xijd.) versus dominum.<sup>2</sup>

Reginaldus Hering in misericordia (vj<sup>d</sup>.) versus Ricardum Barun.<sup>3</sup>

Henricus Clericus manucaptor Roberti Joberd usque proximam curiam. Postea venit et vadiavit misericordiam (vj<sup>d</sup>.) Plegius, Robertus filius Radulfi.<sup>4</sup>

Johannes Hayine qui summonitus fuit et non venit et ideo in misericordia. Distringatur.<sup>5</sup>

Rogerus filius Nolbe distringatur veniendi ad proximam curiam pro hutes[io] levato et Margeria Sparre pro eodem.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> On the 14th July William Bernard complained of Robert, son of Ralph, p. 129, note 1. Now Robert is fined because he had drove a horse of Wm. Bernard into the water, in consequence of which it had died.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 129, note 2.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 129, note 3.

<sup>4</sup> This entry was not all written at the same time. First, the scribe wrote that Henry the Clerk, the surety of Robt. Jobert (who was in mercy at the last Court) is respited to the next Court. Later on in the day's proceedings Henry appeared and found security for the amercement, so the scribe added to the original entry this note in smaller handwriting. For *manucaptor*—see Vol. X, p. 253.

<sup>5</sup> The name Hayine is indistinct. It may be the same as that transcribed "Hiin" in the next Court.

<sup>6</sup> Roger and Margery are both distrained to appear at the next Court for raising the "hue and cry" against one another. At that Court Roger was fined 4 chickens (*pulli*) because he had struck Margery, who was in the peace of God and her lord.

Willelmus de Rideware quia se essoniavit ad magnam curiam et non venit et ideo distringatur.<sup>1</sup>

Curia apud Alrewas die Sabbati proxima post exaltationem sancte crucis anno domini MCC lxxii<sup>o</sup> (*Saturday, 16 September, 1273*).

Gilbertus Alwyne [essoniat se] per Johannum filium Henrici Fader de communi, tercio, plegii veniendi...Adam Prepositus et Ricardus Mogge.

Willelmus Fox per Robertum filium Hodi de cōmmuni, j<sup>o</sup>.

Henricus Fab[er] de Hedenighale per Willelmum filium Roberti, j<sup>o</sup>.

Galfridus filius Nichole per Robertum Wole de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Galfridus Woderove per Willelmum Clericum de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Rogerus de Croxhale per Henricum Clericum de communi, ij<sup>o</sup>.

Johannes Hiin'? in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro defaultu; plegii inveniendi? Willelmus Martin et Thomas Bernard et preceptum est quod dictus Johannis faciat emendationem versus Willelmum filium Galfridi secundum considerationem legalium virorum.<sup>2</sup>

Willelmus de Rideware quia se essoniavit ad magnam curiam et non venit et ideo melius distringatur pro pluribus defaultis.<sup>3</sup>

Ricardus Mogge conqueritur de Roberto de Burway de transgressione; plegii prosequendi, Robertus filius Reginaldi, Johannes filius Reginaldi.<sup>4</sup>

Rogerus filius Nolbe in misericordia domini quia? percussit Margeriam Sparre in pace "dī" [dei?] et domini sui. Plegii (*blank*) (*in margin mīa iiij pulli*).<sup>5</sup>

Valentinus Carpuntarius in misericordia (iij*d.*) domini pro assisa servicie fracta.

Henricus Prepositus bis brasiavit contra assisam et pravam. Condonatur per dominum (ii sol).

<sup>1</sup> See p. 134, note 3.

<sup>2</sup> *Hiin*—this is very indistinct. See p. 131, note 5. The *legales viri* were free men. See Vol. X, p. 266.

See note 1 above.

<sup>4</sup> There is no further record of this suit.

<sup>5</sup> See p. 131, note 6.

Nicolas Carpuntarius bis brasiavit contra assisam et unam pravam. Condonatur pro opere? facta (xijd.).<sup>1</sup>

Galfridus Voderove qui se essoniavit et non expectavit diem et ideo in misericordia, ij<sup>o</sup>.<sup>2</sup>

Curia apud Alrewas die Sabbati in crastino octavi sancti Michaelis anno domini MCC lxxii<sup>o</sup> (*Saturday, 7 October, 1273*).

Galfridus filius Nicholai [essoniavit se] per Robertum filium Hodi de communi, ij<sup>o</sup>.

Henricus Prepositus per Robertum Joybert de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Thomas atte Sciele de Hedenighale per Willelmum filium R . . j<sup>o</sup>.

Willelmus de Siwethimulne per Galfridum filium Walteri de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Radulfus de Freford per Willelmum Clericum, j<sup>o</sup>.

Willelmus Fox per Nicholam Kide, ij<sup>o</sup>.

Walterus Bern de Hedenighale per Galfridum clericum, j<sup>o</sup>.

Henricus Woderoue per Johannem Hayin, j<sup>o</sup>.

Ricardus filius Hauwys per Robertum Wole, j<sup>o</sup>.

Willelmus de Rideware melius distringatur pro pluribus defaltis.<sup>3</sup>

Galfridus Goky in misericordia (vj*d.*) quia fregit conventionem factam inter se et patrum suum, videlicet quod dictus Galfridus dare deberet patri suo ad festum sancti Michaelis unum par secular' de anno in annum dum vixit. Plegii, Roberti Faber et Willelmus Hodam.<sup>4</sup>

Heliot Haymer in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro porcis suis inventis in parco domini apud Wych[nor]. Plegius Thomas Barnard.<sup>5</sup>

Henricus Prepositus in misericordia pro assisa p. (*sic*) fracta servisie.

<sup>1</sup> In both this and the preceding item the fines appear on the margin uncancelled, although it is stated that they have been condoned. Perhaps in this case the value of the work done was xii*d.*

<sup>2</sup> Perhaps this means that when Geoffrey the Woodreeve essoined himself he had not awaited or required a day to be fixed for his definite appearance as he ought to have done. See note p. 91.

<sup>3</sup> See note on p. 91.

<sup>4</sup> *secular'*, probably for *socculatorum*—shoes.

<sup>5</sup> *parcus* sometimes means pound, but here it seems better to read park into which Eliot Aylmer's pigs had strayed.

Henricus Pistor in misericordia (iiij*d.*) pro pane vend[ito] injuste. Plegius (*blank*).

Nicholas Byker dicit quod tenet quandam placeam terre de Simone Hubert pro uno denario reddendo in annuatim ad festum sancti Michaelis. Et dictus Simon dictum denarium noluit capere et negavit dictum terram esse suam dicens esse dictam terram domino, unde preceptum est quod capiatur in manu domini donec discus sum fuerit cui pertinet, videlicet domino vel dicto Simoni.<sup>1</sup>

Curia apud Alrewas in festo apostolorum Simonis et Jude anno regni regis E. primo (*Saturday, 28 October, 1273*).

Gilbertus Alwyne (essoniat se) per Johannem filium Henrici Fader de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Willelmus atthe Siwith milne per Henricum Molendinarium di communi, ij<sup>o</sup>.

Johannes Gyn per Robertum filium Johannis de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Willelmus Martin per Galfridum Rider, j<sup>o</sup>.<sup>2</sup>

Willelmus Hodam per Willelmum Clericum, j<sup>o</sup>.

Radulfus de Freford per Robertum filium Hodi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Galfridus filius Nicholai per Willelmum filium Roberti, ij<sup>o</sup>.

Rogerus Faber de Croxale per Robertum Wole, j<sup>o</sup>.

Willelmus de Rideware qui se ess: ad magnam curiam post Pascham et non venit adhuc? aduuaraut (?) . . . set tachiatu fuit per plegios, scilicet per Johannem Beryn et Thomam Alwyne et primus se ess: primam defaltam et consideratum fuit per curiam quod se non potuit ess[oniar] antequam primam defaltam salvaretur et preceptum est per curiam quod plegii sumoniantur et Willelmus melius dstringatur. (8).

<sup>1</sup> Note the fact that it is the Court which decides whether the rent is payable to Simon or the lord of the manor.

<sup>2</sup> Geoffrey the Rider is probably the same man as Geoffrey Woderove in the preceding court. In these rolls a forest officer of this class is termed indifferently *forestarius*, *woderove*, *i.e.*, *woodreeve*. *le bern[arius]* or *rider*. See p. 97, note 3, p. 100, note 4, and p. 112, note 4.

<sup>3</sup> There are several entries relating to the default of appearance made by Wm. de Rideware, which should be carefully studied by those who are interested in the suit service of free tenants. See a note at the end of the introduction, p. 91.

Ricardus Hering et Alicia uxor ejus dant domino xxiiij solidos ad habendum toftum et totam terram quam Robertus filius Ede de Frodele tenuit in eadem ad plenam etatem Alicie heredis dicte ttrre. Ita quod dicti Ricardus et Alicia custodiat honeste et fideliter dictam heredem donec terminum xv annorum.<sup>1</sup>

Nicholas Bonde in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro assisa fracta.

Willelmus Adam in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro eadem.

Thomas Edemon in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro eadem.

Inquiratur de ij rithes citra proximam curiam quis eos alienavit apud Frodele.<sup>2</sup>

Curia apud Alrewas die {Jov} Lune proxima ante festum sancti Thome [martyris] apostoli anno r. r. E. secundo (*Monday, 18 December, 1273*).

Adam Edemon [essoniat se] per Reginaldum Gamel de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Willelmus Martin per Willelmum filium Edi. (*sic*) de communi, ij<sup>o</sup>.

Robertus Faber per {Robertum} Johannem Poper de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Willelmus Pastor per Robertum Joyberd de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Johannes Beryn qui fuit plegius Willelmi de Rideware [essonait se] per Robertum filium Edi. de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.<sup>3</sup>

Henricus Fader per Willelmum Clericum de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Ricardus Piscator per Johannem fratrum suum de communi, j<sup>o</sup>.

Thomas Alwyn qui fuit plegius Willelmi de Rideware non venit scict: . ? sicut summonitus fuit. Ideo distringatur et Willelmus similiter (*In margin*) Postea venit et warantizavit.<sup>4</sup>

Ricardus Mogge in misericordia (iij*s.* ?) quia rmt'uit ? porcos Ricardi Presbyteri ? in domo sua et eos deliberavit dicto Ricardo

<sup>1</sup> *toftum*, a place where a house formerly stood. For Ede see p. 122, note 2.

<sup>2</sup> Let an enquiry be made before the next Court as to who sold two "rithes" at Fradley. The words "rithes" or "riches" is plainly written, but its meaning is not known to the present writer.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 134, note 3.

<sup>4</sup> See p. 134, note 3. *scict*: probably for *sistere*, "to appear" before the Court.

sine pannagio videlicet sex hoggos. Plegii ; Willelmus ad caput ville et Robertus Partrik. {precium hoggorum vj solidos} (iij*s.*)<sup>1</sup>

Matilda le Meyes in misericordia (i*js.*) pro pannagio detento videlicet de quatuor porcis et quatuor hoggis {precium porcorum x*js.*} (i*js.*)

Memorandum quod {Robertus} Henricus filius Hering dat domino xiiij solidos pro terra patris sui habenda usque ad etatem fratris sui, videlicet Robertus heres dicte terre. Et cum dictus Robertus ad plenam etatem pervenerit, intrabit terram suam sine? calumpni? Domini feodi. Preterea dictus Henricus capit de domino duas acras usque ad dictum terminum et ad hunc terminum dicte due acre revertantur domino feodi.<sup>2</sup>

Nicholas Bonde in misericordia (v*jd.*) pro assisa fracta.

Nicholas Biker in misericordia (v*jd.*) pro eodem.

Nicholas Rotarius in misericordia (v*jd.*) pro eodem.

Henricus Prepositus in misericordia (v*jd.*) pro eodem.

Matilda uxor Wytemay in misericordia (iij*d.*) pro eodem.

{Alicia Gamel in misericordia}.

Adam Edeman, Gilbertus Partric.

Robertus filius Hawise, Galfrid Goky in misericordia (i*js.*) pro sicera.<sup>3</sup>

Mille Pott[er]? in misericordia (x*ij.*) quia traxit brasium suum de feodo domini super terram persone ad pandoxandum.<sup>4</sup>

Margeria Spare in misericordia (v*jd.*) pro assisa fracta et prava.

Radulfus de Lullington de Hedenighale in misericordia (v*jd.*) pro eodem.

<sup>1</sup> The writer cannot decipher or explain this entry.

<sup>2</sup> This entry shows that the custom of "Borough English," descent of lands to the youngest son, prevailed in Alrewas, even in these days. See Vol. X, New Series, p. 251, note 2. *Sine calumpnio*, without any further claim for heriots or dues on the part of the lord of the manor.

<sup>3</sup> *sicera*? Probably a clerical error for *servicie*, *i. e.*, *cervicie*—beer.

<sup>4</sup> Millicent Potter is fined 12 (pence, probably, but neither pence or shillings is written) because she carried her malt from the lord's manor to the prebendal manor to brew beer there.

Pueri Roberti Wole dant domino 1 marcum pro licencia habenda vendendi terram suam apud Frodeley et facta est finis pro venditore et emptore. Plegii, Robertus filius Heyne et Henricus Wodegrove.<sup>1</sup>

Thomas Edemon in misericordia (xijd.) pro hutesio levato in domo Henrici Prepositi.<sup>2</sup>

Adam Prepositus, qui francplegius est, in misericordia (vj*d.*) pro transgressione.

Robertus de Borewey distringatur veniendi ad proximam curiam respondendi quare detinet inclausum quoddam campum in . . . . tempore anni quod deberet esse communam pasturam.<sup>3</sup>

Adam Phal indistringatur pro pannagio pro quatuor? porcorum suorum recento.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The boys of Robert Wolley give 13*s.* 4*d.* to the lord for leave to sell their land at Fradley, and a final concord is made for the sale and the purchase.

<sup>2</sup> *pro hutesio levato*, or raising the hue and cry.

<sup>3</sup> To answer to the charge of keeping a certain field enclosed at a time of year when it ought to be open for the common pasture.

<sup>4</sup> *Phalin*, elsewhere written Falyn; *recento* is puzzling but apparently correct.





LANE OF KING'S BROMLEY,  
FORMERLY OF  
BENTLEY AND THE HYDE.

BY

MAJOR-GENERAL THE HON. GEORGE WROTTESELEY.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This history of the Lane Family is published as left by General Wrottesley at his death, with some slight alterations of obvious slips. He did not regard it as finished, but it seems to the Editor to be sufficiently complete for publication.



## LANE OF KING'S BROMLEY, FORMERLY OF BENTLEY AND THE HYDE.

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THIS family derives its principal distinction from the share it took in the preservation of Charles II. after the battle of Worcester. Jane Lane, a daughter of the house, who rode behind the King, disguised as a tenant of the Lanes, from Bentley to Bristol, is one of the heroines of English History. Independently of this, however, the history of the family is not uninteresting. They derive their name, originally written "in the Lone of Hampton," from the lane of Wolverhampton, and much of the interest which surrounds their early origin is derived from the contrast between this homely sobriquet and the position which they undoubtedly occupied as early as the reign of Edward I. In fact, these local designations are not incompatible with a certain social position, or even with high birth, as we know from the analogous cases of Townshend; "atte townsend," Thynne, "atte Inn"; De la Pole, and others.

In the reign of Edward II. Richard in de Lone of Hampton was married to the widow of a Knight (Sir John de Tresel), and his elder brother Andrew in de Lone, the ancestor of the present family of Lane, was Steward of the King's manor of Tettenhall and seals with a coat of arms showing a chevron between three cinquefoils.<sup>1</sup>

Whatever name or sobriquet a family may bear, if they bore coat-armour as early as the reign of Edward III. they must be reckoned amongst the gentle blood of England, and Evelyn Shirley rightly includes the Lanes of King's Bromley amongst the *Noble and Gentlemen of England*.

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. VI, New Series, part 1, note on p. 160.

There seems, however, to be an irresistible temptation amongst our old families to go "one better" as it were, and to claim an earlier origin than authentic records give to them. In Burke's *Landed Gentry* this family claims a descent from a Sir Reginald de Lona of Halton, co. Chester, living in the reign of Henry II. Of this descent, however, there is no proof whatever, nor is there any evidence which suggests a descent from a Cheshire family. The idea appears to have originated from a mistaken assumption that the manor of Hatton, near Brewood, held at one time by the Lanes, was Halton in Cheshire.<sup>1</sup>

The earliest proved ancestor of the family is a John in le Lone of Hampton, who was one of a jury at the assizes held at Wolverhampton in 17 E. I. (1289).<sup>2</sup> This John occurs again on the Staffordshire Assize Roll of 21 E. I. (1293) as surety for one of his neighbours who had killed another in self-defence.<sup>3</sup> In 1295 he was one of the tenants in Wolverhampton who were sued by the Prebendary of the King's Free Chapel in that town in a plea respecting the tenure of their lands.<sup>4</sup>

John was succeeded by his son Richard,<sup>5</sup> who is mentioned frequently on the Rolls, and appears to have been a man of some local importance. He was one of those who took part in the feud between the Staffords and the Ipstones respecting the church of Eaton, and at Michaelmas term 19 E. II. (1325) he was a defendant in a suit of trespass brought against him and others by Thomas de Brumpton, the parson of Church Eaton,<sup>6</sup> one of the defendants named in this suit. John de Picheford had been killed during the quarrel, and the Sheriff returned he was dead and that Richard de la Lone could not be found.<sup>6</sup>

On the Subsidy Rolls of 1 E. III. (1327) and 6 E. III. (1332) his name occurs amongst the principal inhabitants of Wolverhampton who were assessed to the tax. In the first of these

<sup>1</sup> One of the disadvantages of these assumptions is that they draw a red herring across the real trail. Thus it may turn out, when the history of Warwickshire is written in more detail, that the Lanes are a scion of a great Warwickshire house. The use of the cinquefoils and the name of Andrew seems to point to a relationship to the Astleys.

<sup>2</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. VI, p. 186-7.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 283.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, p. 30.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XVII, p. 44.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. X, pp. 62 and 66.

lists are to be found the names of Richard in la Lone and Alice atte Lone.<sup>1</sup> This Alice was apparently the widow of his father John, for on the second Subsidy Roll of 6 E. III. (1332) her name no longer occurs, and the assessment of Richard is increased by the amount set against her name on the Roll of 1327.<sup>2</sup> At Easter term 5 E. III. (1331) William, son of Richard de Marnham (of West Bromwich), sued Richard in the Lone of Wolverhampton, Andrew his son, Richard Leveson, William de Engleton, and others named in the Court of King's Bench (*coram Rege*) in a plea of trespass. Nine of the defendants appeared, and the Sheriff was ordered to distrain and produce them at the following Michaelmas term.<sup>3</sup> When the suit appears again on the Rolls, which is at Michaelmas term 6 E. III. (1332), the Sheriff returned that Richard in the Lone and his son Andrew were both dead.<sup>4</sup> This may have been true in the case of Richard, but his son Andrew was certainly alive for several years after this date.

In a suit in Banco of Trinity term, 9 E. III. (1335), Richard de la Lone (*sic*) of Wolverhampton sued Robert le Say and William de Pulton to render to him a reasonable account for the times that each of them had been the receiver of his money. The defendants did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to produce them at the following Michaelmas term.<sup>5</sup> At Easter term 13 E. III. (1339) William de Ercalewe, who had been Sheriff of Salop and Staffordshire, sued Richard atte Lane of Wolverhampton to render a reasonable account for the time he had been the receiver of his money. Richard apparently had acted as Sub-Sheriff for William, and the defendants in the first suit had acted as his Bailiffs. I conclude this Richard was a younger son of the last-named Richard, for the latter was certainly succeeded by his son Andrew.<sup>6</sup> Richard the son of Richard atte Lone, had married Margery the widow of Sir John de Tresell of Trysull, near Wolverhampton,<sup>7</sup> and his name frequently occurs on the rolls of the early part of the reign of Edward III.

Richard the elder was succeeded by his son Andrew<sup>8</sup> who was

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. VII, p. 249.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. X, p. 126.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XIV, p. 24.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 28.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. p. 61.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XVII, p. 44.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XI, p. 162 ; and Vol. XII, pp. 62, 150.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XVII, p. 44.

Steward of the King's manor of Tettenhall. At Easter term 20 E. III. (1346) he sued *coram Rege* Andrew, the son of Simon Leveson of Willenhall, for a trespass on his land at Willenhall and an assault upon his servant. The defendant did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to arrest him.<sup>1</sup> Amongst the deeds formerly at Wrottesley were copies of Court Rolls of Tettenhall Regis bearing an armorial seal of this Andrew, showing a chevron between three cinquefoils and the legend "S. Andree en la Lone."<sup>2</sup>

These arms were afterwards borne by the Hamptons of Stourton Castle, differenced by adding three besants on the chevron, and there can be little doubt that the Lanes of Hampton and the Hamptons of Stourton were of the same stock.<sup>3</sup>

Andrew was succeeded by his son John in the Lone,<sup>4</sup> who first occurs on the Rolls in 42 E. III. (1368). At Michaelmas term of that year he appeared in person *in Banco*, and sued John Leveson of Willenhall for taking fish from his several fishery at Willenhall, *vi et armis*.<sup>5</sup> At the following Hilary term he was suing John Jurdan of Wolverhampton for breaking into his close at that place, and taking his goods and chattels to the value of 100s,<sup>6</sup> and at the same sittings of the Court he sued in person Richard Nicholas of Wednesfield and six others named for a sum of 40*li*, the arrears of an annual rent of 40s.<sup>7</sup> No further notice of this suit occurs, and at Michaelmas term 44 E. III. (1370) Katrine, the widow of Richard Neweby, barker, appeared in person *coram Rege*, and appealed against John in the Lone of Wolverhampton, Thomas his brother, William in the Lone of Wolverhampton, John Couper the servant of John in the Lone, Henry de Bisshebury, and four others for the death of her husband. None of the defendants appeared, and the Sheriff returned that John in the Lone, Thomas his brother, William in the Lone, John Couper, and John son of John Jaunesone could not be found, and he was ordered to outlaw them, if they did not

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XIV, p. 66.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, New Series, p. 64, part 2.

<sup>3</sup> John Hampton, dominus de Storton, used these arms, without the plates, on a seal of 9 H. IV. (Transcripts of deeds, William Salt Library.)

<sup>4</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XVI, p. 44.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XIII, p. 69.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 73.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 73.

appear to their summons in the County Court, and if they appeared, to produce them at Trinity term ; and, as regarded the other defendants, they were all dead. No further notice of this appeal has been found, and John disappears from the scene after this date. The deaths of so many of the defendants may be accounted for by the third great pestilence of this era which raged in the months of July, August, and September of 1369.

The William of the Lone named amongst the defendants was probably the uncle of John, and his career is so typical of the period, it is worth giving an account of it. On the death of John de Somery, the Baron of Dudley, in 16 E. II. (1322) John de Sutton, the son of John de Sutton lord of Malpas, who had married Margaret the elder sister and co-heir of John, had entered into possession of Dudley, the chief seat, and most of the Staffordshire estates of the Barony. For some reason, of which we are unacquainted,<sup>1</sup> he had incurred the enmity of the inhabitants of Wolverhampton and a Special Commission was issued in 13 E. III. (1339) on the complaint of John son of John de Sutton that Hugh son of John de Prestwode, John his brother, William in the Lone, John his brother, Simon in the Lone, and twenty-nine others who are named (nearly all tenants of Wolverhampton),<sup>2</sup> had carried away his goods by force from Wolverhampton, assaulted his men and servants, and cut off their tongues and noses, so that he lost their services for a length of time.<sup>3</sup>

A second Commission was issued in the same year on the complaint of Richard de Turhull of Seggesleye (one of the tenants of John de Sutton), that the same defendants had assaulted him at Wolverhampton, cut out his tongue, plucked out one of his eyes, and taken away two of his horses and other goods.<sup>4</sup> The proceedings of these Special Commissions are not extant.

<sup>1</sup> In 12 E. III. (1338) John de Sutton had obtained the King's licence to assart the wastes lying within his manors of Dudley, Sedgley, Swinford, Rowley, and Bradfield, and acts done under this licence would be likely to bring him into collision with his neighbours.

<sup>2</sup> Their names occur on the Subsidy Rolls of 1 E. III. and 6 E. III. under Wolverhampton.

<sup>3</sup> Calendar of Patent Rolls, 13 E. III. Record Series printed.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

At Michaelmas term 29 E. III. (1355) John de Sutton, the Baron of Dudley, sued William de Perton, John de Perton his son (who was a Knight), and William son of Richard in the Lone of Hampton. They had conspired together to cause him to be arrested in 26 E. III. and detained for three months in prison on the charge of aiding and abetting certain men who had been appealed of a robbery by one Robert Dogmersfelde of Dudley. For this Sutton claimed £1,000 as damages. The defendants appeared by attorney and denied the conspiracy, and appealed to a jury.<sup>1</sup> The result does not appear, but if a man of Baronial rank could be detained in prison on such a charge, the criminal law must have been far more stringent and effective in the fourteenth century than is usually supposed at the present day.

At Michaelmas term 34 E. III. (1360) the Sheriff of Warwickshire was ordered to summon a jury in a suit of Sir John Peeche of Hampton in Arderne against William in the Lane of Wolverhampton; Sir John Peeche had accused the latter of forcibly entering his free warren at Hampton in Arderne and taking his fish and game in 29 E. III. and for four years following, during which he had taken fish to the value of 100s. 200 hares, 100 rabbits, 1,000 partridges, and 60 pheasants of warren. William did not appear, and the record shows that no jury had been summoned up to Trinity term 35 E. III.<sup>2</sup>

In 38 E. III. (1364) William de la Lone was one of the sureties of Warine de Penne, who had been accused of a robbery by Lora, the widow of Clement de Penne.<sup>3</sup> In the following year the Sheriff was ordered to arrest him, as he had not appeared to his summons or produced the party for whom he was surety.<sup>4</sup>

At Michaelmas 39 E. III. (1365) John de Derby, Chaplain, sued William son of Richard in the Lone of Wolverhampton for taking his goods and chattels by force from Hatherdon. William did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to arrest him.<sup>5</sup>

In 44 E. III. (1370) he was one of those appealed by

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XIV, p. 96.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 103.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 111.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 119.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XIII, p. 53.



Katrine, the widow of William Neweby for the death of her husband, as already recounted. His latest appearance in the criminal annals of the period is in a writ of Hillary term 2 Ric. II. (1379) when the Sheriff of Staffordshire was ordered to outlaw him unless he appeared at Michaelmas term to answer to the King for various felonies of which he had been indicted.<sup>1</sup> This William de la Lone was one of the feoffees of the manor of Wrottesley in 23 E. III. (1349), and in the deed by which he released his right to Sir Hugh Wrottesley in the same year he used a seal with a coat of arms upon it showing a lion's head between three cinquefoils and the legend "S. Willi de Wolverhampton."<sup>2</sup>

#### RICHARD LONE, 1413-1439.

John in le Lone was succeeded before 1413 by his son Richard,<sup>3</sup> who laid the foundation of the fortunes of the family by his marriage with Elizabeth, the daughter and eventual heir of Ralph de la Hyde.<sup>4</sup> This Ralph derived his name from the Hide in the Parish of Brewood, and was the descendant of a Thomas de la Hyde who was Warden of the Stannaries and Sheriff of Cornwall in the reign of Edward I.<sup>5</sup> By this marriage the Lanes obtained the manors of Coven, Bromhall, and Hyde, and became co-partners of the estates of the Bagots of Blymhill. The family had now risen into a considerable position in the county, and from this date their name occurs in nearly every Commission of the Peace. Richard Lane was a Justice of the Peace, Member of Parliament for the county, and King's Escheator.

The early pedigree of the family is well authenticated by a suit respecting land in Wednesfield which was carried on by this Richard in 1413. At the Trinity sittings *in banco* of that year (1 H. V.) Richard appeared in person, and sued Roger son of

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XIV, p. 147.

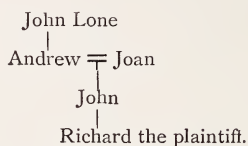
<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, New Series, part 2, pp. 162-164.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XVII, p. 44. Richard occurs as defendant of a suit respecting land in Wolverhampton in 1411, but his father may have been alive at this date (see Vol. XVI, p. 76).

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XVII, p. 50.

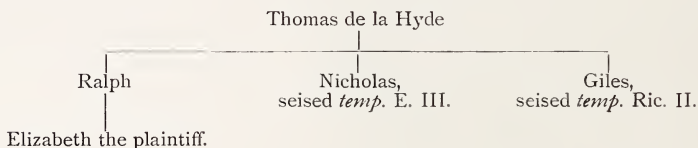
<sup>5</sup> *Inq. p.m.*, 34 E. I., No. 217.

John atte Wode of Wodnesfeld for land in that town which Richard son of John Lone had given to Andrew Lone his son and Joan the wife of Andrew, and the heirs of their bodies, in the reign of Edward III, and which should descend to him as their rightful heirs, and he gave this pedigree :—



Roger admitted the claim of the plaintiff, who recovered seisin of the tenements.<sup>1</sup>

In the following year, viz., at Michaelmas, 2 H. V. (1414), Richard Lone and Elizabeth his wife sued Joan, late wife of Ralph de la Hyde, for lands and rents in Bromhall, which Thomas de la Hyde, the grandfather of Elizabeth and whose heir she was, had granted to Nicholas son of Thomas de la Hyde and to the heirs of his body, and, failing such, to Giles brother of Nicholas for his life, and which should revert to them after the deaths of Nicholas and Giles, and they gave this pedigree :—



Joan admitted the claim, and Richard and Elizabeth recovered seisin of the tenements.<sup>2</sup>

At the same sittings *in banco*, Richard Lone sued in person John Newman, of Gunstone, for forcibly breaking into his house at Gunstone and taking goods and chattels to the value of £10. The defendant did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to arrest him.<sup>3</sup>

In 5 H. V. (1417) Richard Lone was chosen arbitrator in a suit between John Boveton, of Longdon, and Magister Thomas de Stretton, the Dean of Lichfield.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XVII, p. 44.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XVII, p. 50.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 53.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 62.

At Hillary term 7 H. V. (1419) Richard Lone "late King's Escheator in co. Stafford" sued Richard Lone, Richard Wyrley and two other inhabitants of Walsall for illegally rescuing cattle which he had taken in his office of Escheator for customs and services owing to the King. The defendants did not appear and the sheriff was ordered to arrest them.<sup>1</sup> At the same sittings of the Court, the sheriff was ordered to arrest Richard Lone of Hyde and three others who were sureties for the sum of 100 marks owing to Thomas Blount, armiger.<sup>2</sup>

In this year, Richard Lone was one of the Justices of the Peace for co. Stafford who made return of the knights and squires of the county who were fit and liable to bear arms for the defence of the Kingdom; the other Justices who made the return were Sir Richard Vernon, Sir John Bagot and William Lee,<sup>3</sup> and I doubt whether there were any others at this date.

At Trinity term, 10 H. V. (1422) Richard, son of John Lone, appeared in person *in banco*, and sued Walter Madeley, Chaplain, Thomas Wrottesley, Chaplain, Richard Leveson and John Seysdon for a messuage and lands in Wolverhampton and Compton by a writ of *formedon*, and the suit was adjourned.<sup>4</sup> He styles himself son of John Lone in this suit, because he derived his claim from his father.

At Michaelmas term 2 H. VI. (1423) Richard appeared again in person *in banco* and sued John Colettes of Bilbrook, and three others for breaking into his close at Hatton and depasturing cattle on his grass. None of the defendants appeared, and the sheriff was ordered to arrest them.<sup>5</sup> The constant appearance of Richard in person in all these suits seems to show that he had been bred up to the law. At Trinity term, 6 H. VI. (1428) he appeared in Court again in person and sued, on the part of the King and for himself, Thomas Wrottesley of Wolverhampton, Chaplain, Nicholas Waring, of the same place, and John Seysdon, for a conspiracy to deprive him of lands and tenements in Wednesfield, and for fabricating false deeds for that purpose.

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XVII, p. 73.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 72.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, New Series, part 2, p. 198.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XVII, p. 85.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 94.

The defendants appeared and denied the allegation, and appealed to a jury, but no result appeared on the Rolls.<sup>1</sup>

At Trinity term 8 H. VI. (1430) Richard Lone sued John Chorlton of Hognorton, co. Oxford, Gentilman, and two others, for abducting from Womburne, in Staffordshire, William, son and heir of Walter Weley, a minor, whose marriage belonged to him. The defendants did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to arrest them, to make diligent enquiry concerning the heir and produce him in Court at the same time as the defendants.

There are many other suits of this period in which this Richard occurs, either as plaintiff or defendant, but they contain nothing of interest.

He seems to have been a man of some capacity. He was actively engaged all his life in various public offices, and he materially augmented the patrimony of the family by purchases of land. It has been shown that he obtained the manors of Bromhall and the Hyde in Brewood by his marriage with Elizabeth, the daughter of Ralph de la Hyde with whom he also acquired a share of the manor and advowson of Blymhill.

Ralph de la Hyde had left a widow, Joan, who afterwards married Robert Burgilon, and in 6 H. V. (1418-19) Joan, formerly wife of Robert Burgulon released to Richard Lone and Elizabeth his wife all her right in the manor Bromhale and lands in Bromhale, Housebrok, and Codeshale, to be held by the said Richard and Elizabeth and the heirs of Elizabeth.<sup>2</sup> In 6 H. VI. (1428) William the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield granted to Richard Lone of Hyde, the manor of Hatton in the county of Stafford, to be held by him and the heirs of his body for a suit of 7 marks and two appearances annually at the Great Courts of the Bishop at Brewode.<sup>3</sup>

In 8 H. VI. (1430) Thomas Griffith, armiger, grants to Richard Lone de la Hyde and to John, his son, and the heirs of Richard, all the lands, tenements, rents and services which he held in Bentley in the county of Stafford, together with the reversion of a messuage, a mill, a carucate and a half of land, 12 acres of meadow, 16 acres of wood, and 7*s.* rent in Bentley held by

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XVII, p. 129.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 129.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 325, where the name is erroneously printed Halton.

Richard Harcourt and Alianora his wife for the term of the life of Alianora, and also the reversion of all the lands and tenements which Richard Pety and Margaret his wife held for the term of life of the said Margaret.

At the time this purchase was made, the fact was apparently overlooked, that Bentley being held *in capite* of the Crown, the alienation of it without previous licence was illegal: and three years afterwards, on the 18th May, 1433, Letters Patent were issued containing a pardon, for 25 marks paid in the Hanaper, to Richard Lone of Hyde and John Lone his son for acquiring to themselves and the heirs of the said Richard, from Thomas Gryffyth, Esquire, the manor of Bentelegh together with the Bailiwick of keeping the Haye of Bentelegh, which was held of the King in chief, and entering therein without licence, and licence for him to retain the same.<sup>1</sup>

In 1434, Richard Lone was returned amongst the gentry of Staffordshire who were to be sworn to keep the peace under the provisions of the Act of Parliament of 12 H. VI. (1434).<sup>2</sup>

The manor of Coven, which was afterwards in the possession of the Lone family must have been acquired about this date, for by deed dated 12 H. VI. (1434) Thomas Baddeley and Catharine his wife release to Richard Lane and to his heirs all their right to lands in Coven, excepting a small parcel of land, 3 feet long and 2 feet broad (*sic*) the grave apparently of some favourite animal.<sup>3</sup>

In the same year, in conjunction with his son, John Lane, he levied a fine respecting the manor of Hyde and other lands in cos. Stafford and Salop. These are specified as consisting of 6 messuages, 9 tofts, 6 carucates of land, 30 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture, 24 acres of wood, and 40s. of rent in Gunston, Brewode, Chillington, Bromhale, Hatton, Codeshale, Pendeford, Bellerbrok (Billbrook), Blymynhill and Brynton, the advowson of the church of Blymynhill, and 60 cartloads annually of underwood from Chillington, and a messuage, two tofts, a carucate of land,

<sup>1</sup> Calendar of Patent Rolls, Roll Series, printed.

<sup>2</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XI, New Series, p. 278.

<sup>3</sup> Huntbach MS., William Salt Library, Stafford, fol. 85.

12 acres of meadow, 10 acres of pasture, 8 acres of wood, and 2s. of rent in Hemme, co. Salop.<sup>1</sup>

The latest appearance of Richard on the Rolls is August, 1437, when he is named in the suit of Richard de Winnington against Sir John de Gresley and Margaret, his wife, for two parts of the manor of Marchall, co. Chester. The plea had been heard in co. Chester before Humfrey, Duke of Gloucester, the Justice of Chester, and, after several adjournments, the sheriff had been ordered to summon a jury for the Tuesday before the Feast of St. Lawrence, 15 H. VI. (August, 1437), on which day John and Margaret had failed to appear, and the sheriff had been ordered to take the land in question into the King's hands, and a day was given to the parties on the Tuesday after the next Feast of St. Bartholomew to hear judgment, on which day the parties appeared in Court, and the plaintiff claimed a verdict by the default of the defendants.

John and Margaret then pleaded that the default should not prejudice them, because on the Monday before the above Court was held, which was the Tuesday before the Feast of St. Lawrence, they had been imprisoned at Abbots Bromley, in co. Stafford, by one Richard Lane, and had been detained there in prison till the following Thursday, so that they could not appear in Court. Richard de Winnington replied that on the day in question John and Margaret were at large in Chester, and appealed to a jury. The suit was then moved by a *writ of recordari* to be heard in London *in banco*, and the Sheriff of co. Chester was ordered to summon a jury of the vicinage of Abbots Bromley.<sup>2</sup> The result does not appear; the arrest of the two defendants in the action, may have been collusive, in order to embarrass the plaintiff and delay the action, but the pleadings show that Richard Lane was alive in August, 1437.

Richard Lane was a man of importance, for his name appears frequently on the Rolls as Commissioner, Justice of the Peace, and King's Escheator; he was also a member for the county in the Parliaments of 1421, 1423, 1425 and 1426.

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XI, p. 244.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. III, New Series, pp. 142-143.

## JOHN LANE. 1439-70.

John Lane must have been in possession of his estates in 17 H. VI. (1439), when he enfeoffed Ralph Egerton in the manors of Bentley and Hyde.<sup>1</sup> In the same year we find him suing Nicholas Leveson and fourteen other inhabitants of Wolverhampton for breaking into his close at Wednesfield and depasturing cattle on his grass. None of the defendants appeared in Court, and the Sheriff was ordered to distrain on Nicholas, who had found bail, and to arrest all the others, and produce them at the following Easter term.<sup>2</sup> The tenants of Wolverhampton claimed common of pasture in Wednesfield; but the sequel of the suit is not shown. At Hillary term 19 H. VI. (1441) we find clear evidence of the death of his father Richard, for at that date John Lone and William Neuporte, *the executors of the will of Richard Lone*, sued John Spycer of Wolverhampton, and William Lone of Willenhall, for a debt of 40s.<sup>3</sup>

At Michaelmas term, 22 H. VI. (1443), John Lane sued John Pempton of Mitton and another for breaking into his close at Hyde and carrying away two mares belonging to him. The defendants did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to arrest them.<sup>4</sup>

At Michaelmas term, 30 H. VI. (1451), John Lone sued John Fysher of Wolverhampton to render an account for the time he was the receiver of his money. The defendant did not appear and the Sheriff was ordered to arrest him.<sup>5</sup>

At Michaelmas, 32 H. VI. (1453), Isabella Creghton, the Prioress of the House of the White Nuns of Brewood, was sued by John Lane for illegally taking his cattle. As John did not appear when the suit was called on, it was dismissed, and the cattle were restored to the Prioress. Afterwards, on the 22nd January, 32 H. VI. (1454), John Lane appeared in Court and asked for a *writ of redisseisin*, which was granted to him, returnable on the Quindene of Easter; the Sheriff, however,

<sup>1</sup> Lane Evidences.

<sup>2</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. III, New Series, p. 148.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 157.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 167.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 203.

had made no return to the writ up to Hillary term, 33 H. VI. (January, 1455), when the record closes.<sup>1</sup>

Two years later, viz., at Hillary term, 35 H. VI. (1457), he was suing John Bykford of Brewood and three others of the same name, who are described as husbandmen, for breaking into his Close at Brewood and depasturing cattle on his corn and grass. None of the defendants appeared and the Sheriff was ordered to arrest them.<sup>2</sup> No further notice of the suit occurs, but John Lane had evidently enclosed and cultivated land over which the defendants claimed to have rights of common. Disputes respecting rights of common form the most frequent source of lawsuits during the middle ages. At Trinity term 36 H. VI. (1458), he sued Richard Salford, gentleman, and three others, all described as of Wolverhampton, to render an account for the time that each of them had been the receivers of his money. None of the defendants appeared, and the Sheriff was ordered to arrest them.<sup>3</sup>

At Trinity term, 5 E. IV. (1465), he was one of the defendants in a suit in which Margaret the Countess of Shrewsbury sued Sir Roger Corbet of Morton and fifteen other Knights and Squires of Staffordshire and Salop for collecting a great multitude of malefactors and breaking into her houses at Whitchurch and Blakemere, and threatening her servants and tenants so that for fear of their lives they were unable to perform their duties. None of the defendants appeared, and the Sheriff was ordered to attach them. The Staffordshire Squires implicated in this raid upon the Countess' lands are described as John Lane, late of Hide, co. Stafford, armiger, John Delves of Uttoxeter, armiger, William Mutton of Weston under Liscard, armiger, Hugh Egerton of Wrynehill, armiger, and John Cotes of Wodecote, armiger.<sup>4</sup> His latest appearance on the Rolls is at Easter term, 9 E. IV. (1469), when he was suing Nicholas Leveson of Wolverhampton, and Hillary his wife, for breaking into his house and close at Wolverhampton.<sup>5</sup> He died 3rd of January, 1470. A fragment of the Inquisition post-mortem

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. III, New Series, p. 211.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. IV, New Series, p. 99.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 110.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 138.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 162.



taken at Brewood after his death is extant, and states that John Lone, Esquire, held in his demesne as of fee, of John, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, 100 acres of land in Hatton by Pendeford, co. Stafford, and the said John Lone died on Tuesday after the Feast of St. Thomas the Martyr in the 9th year of the said King (3rd January, 1469-70), and that Ralph Lone, aged 26 years and upwards, was his son and next heir.<sup>1</sup>

According to the Lane evidences, he married Marjory, daughter of Randle or Ralph Egerton of Wrinehill, co. Stafford, who survived him for many years. At Michaelmas term, 9 E. IV. (1469), [*sic*], under the title of Marjory Lone, widow, formerly wife of John Lone, and executrix of the will of the said John. She sued Sir John Birmingham of Birmingham and four others for various sums of money,<sup>2</sup> and four years afterwards she sued Thomas Coke for breaking into her close at Wolverhampton.<sup>3</sup> She was dead in January, 1476, for at that date Hugh Egerton and Richard Lane, described as executors of the will of Marjory Lane, late executrix of the will of John Lane, were suing three defendants for a debt of 40s.<sup>4</sup>

RALPH LANE. A.D. 1470-1477.

The first appearance of Ralph Lane is on the *de banco Roll* of Easter, 9 E. IV. (1469). At this date his father was alive, and Ralph and Hugh Egerton (his brother-in-law) sued Nicholas Leveson of Wolverhampton for breaking into their close at Wolverhampton and taking goods and chattels belonging to them to the value of £10.<sup>5</sup> This is evidently the same trespass for which his father was suing Nicolas Leveson and Hillaria, his wife, at the date of his death. At Easter term, 10 E. IV. (1470), the Record *in banco* states that Nicholas Leveson, a Wolverhampton gentleman, and Hillaria, his wife, were attached at the suit of Hugh Egerton and Ralph Lane for breaking into their

<sup>1</sup> Chancery Inquisitions, p.m. E. IV., File 31, No. 8. The Inquisition is dated January 10th, 9 E. IV. (1469-70).

<sup>2</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. IV, New Series, p. 166.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 192.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, New Series, part 1, p. 98.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. IV, New Series, p. 162.

houses and close at Wolverhampton on the 10th of December, 8 E. IV. (1469), and taking 12 cartloads of paling, and breaking into pieces 5,000 tiles worth 5 marks, and for which they claimed £20 as damages. The defendants denied the trespass and appealed to a jury which was to be summoned for the Octaves of Holy Trinity. A postscript states that at that date the suit was adjourned through defect of a jury to the Octaves of St. Michael, before which, however, the suit had been made a *remanet* owing to the re-entry of King Henry VI. into his government. After which Hugh Egerton appeared in Court and asked for a writ of re-attachment, which was granted, returnable on the Octaves of St. Hillary, 49 H. VI. (1471).<sup>1</sup> No further notice of this suit has been found. Hugh was evidently a feoffee put in for "uses," for in 16 H. VII. (1501), under the name of Hugh Egerton, son and heir of Ralph Egerton, he released to Richard Lane, the son of this Ralph, all his right in the manors of Bentley and Hide.<sup>2</sup> At Michaelmas term, 15 E. IV. (1475), John Harcourt and Ralph Lane sued John Fletcher of Lynehille in the Parish of Penkridge, for a trespass.<sup>3</sup>

Between this date and 1477, the date of his death, he made the petition, in Chancery, which is printed in Vol. VII of the *Staffordshire Collections*. In this petition he states that, whereas John Lane, Squyer, his father, was seised of 20 messuages, 500 acres of land, 100 acres of meadow, 500 acres of pasture, and 100 acres of wood in Wolverhampton, Blymhill, Broynton (Brinton), Stretton, Hatton, Benteley, and Fetherstone, and had enfeoffed in the same, one Thomas Mochalle in trust, to the use of the said John Lane and his heirs; and John had died, and he had called upon the said Thomas to make an estate to him, as heir of his father; the said Thomas had refused to do so. He therefore prayed for a writ of *sub pena* requiring the said Thomas to appear before the King in Chancery.<sup>4</sup> This

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. IV, New Series, p. 169.

<sup>2</sup> Huntbach MS.

<sup>3</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. VI, New Series, part 1, p. 93.

<sup>4</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. VII, p. 274. The petition is addressed to the Bishop of Lincoln, who was Chancellor from September 20th, 1475, to September 3rd, 1480.

is the latest notice we have of Ralph. He died on the 27th March, 1477,<sup>1</sup> leaving a son, Richard, four years of age, and two daughters, Christine and Marjory.<sup>2</sup> His wife was Joyce, daughter of Ralph Cresset of Upton Cresset, co. Salop, who subsequently remarried Edward Burton of the same county.<sup>3</sup>

The Inquisition taken after his death is extant, and was as follows :—

ABSTRACT.

Commission dated 1 September, 17 Edward IV. [1477], to Sir John Ferrers, knight, and others to enquire what lands and tenements Ralph Lane held of the King in chief and of others on the day that he died.

Inquisition taken at Walshale, co. Stafford, on Thursday next before the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, 17 Edward IV. [25 September, 1477], by virtue of letters patent of the Lord the King. The jurors say that Ralph Lone died on Thursday next before Palm Sunday last past [27 March, 1477], and was seised in his demesne as of fee on the day that he died of the manor of Bentley with its appurtenances in the county aforesaid together with the bailiwick of keeping the Hay of Bentley aforesaid, with its appurtenances, and that manor with the bailiwick he held of the Lord the King in chief by the tenth part of one knight's fee. In which said manor are one messuage and one watermill worth 6*s.* 8*d.* by the year beyond reprises, 240 acres of land and pasture, each acre of which is worth 2*d.* by the year, 20 acres of meadow, each acre of which is worth 6*d.* by the year, 20 acres of wood which are worth nothing by the year, because the wood and underwood were lately cut, and 6 acres of moor, each acre of which is worth 1*d.* by the year. And further the jurors say that the said Ralph was seised in his demesne as of fee of 3 messuages and 3 virgates of land in Stretton, in the county aforesaid, and in the said messuages and virgates of land there are 100 acres of land and meadow worth 40*s.* in all by the year, and they are held of Richard Congreve, esquire. Also the said Ralph was seised in his demesne as of fee of 10 messuages, 10 virgates of land, and 40 acres of meadow in Hatton, in the county aforesaid, and in the said messuages and virgates of land there are 260 acres of land, which were formerly given and granted to the ancestors of the said Ralph by the predecessors of the Bishop of Chester ; which messuages, land, and meadow are worth in all by the year 13*s.* 4*d.* beyond reprises, and they are held of

<sup>1</sup> Inquisition p.m.

<sup>2</sup> Vincent MSS.

<sup>3</sup> Lane Evidences, and *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. VI, New Series, part 1, p. 128.

John, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. Also the said Ralph was seised in his demesne as of fee of 5 messuages, 5 virgates of land, and 30 acres of meadow in Hatton aforesaid, and in the said messuages and virgates of land there are 130 acres, which were purchased by Richard Lone, ancestor of the said Ralph. Which messuages, land and meadow are worth in all 30s. by the year beyond reprises, and are held of John, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. Also the said Ralph was seised of two messuages in Brewood, worth 10s. by the year beyond reprises, and they are held of the said bishop. The jurors say that the said Ralph was seised of 170 acres of land and 100 acres of meadow in Wednesfield, each acre of which is worth 3*d.* by the year, and they are held of the Dean of the College of Hampton. The said Ralph was seised in his demesne as of fee of three messuages in Hampton, worth 30s. by the year beyond reprises, and they are held of the Lord of Lovell. The said Ralph was seised in his demesne as of fee of 64 acres of land in Hampton, and each acre thereof is worth 2*d.* by the year beyond reprises, and they are held of the said Lord of Lovell. Also the jurors say that the said Ralph was seised in his demesne as of fee of 10 messuages, 300 acres of land, 60 acres of meadow, and 4 acres of wood in Coven, Gunston, Codsale, Bromehale, Billebroke, Somerford and Hossebroke, which are held of the said bishop. And so being thereof seised he thereof enfeoffed William Robenet, vicar of Brewood, and William Ferrour, vicar of Bushebury, to have to them and to their heirs for ever. The said William and William by their writing gave and granted those lands and tenements to the said Ralph and Joyce, his wife, yet living, and to their issue, in default to remain to the right heirs of the said Ralph.

The said Ralph and Joyce had issue, Richard Lone. And further, the jurors say that the said Ralph was seised in his demesne as of fee of 20 acres of land in Hide and Gunston, and those he held of Robert Gifford, each acre worth 3*d.* by the year. The said Ralph was also seised in his demesne as of fee of 1 messuage and 1 mill in Hide aforesaid, called "le maner" of Hide, with 8 gardens and 4 orchards to the said messuage adjacent, which are worth 6s. 8*d.* by the year beyond reprises, and are held of the said Bishop of Chester. The said Ralph was seised in his demesne as of fee of 262 acres of land in Hyde aforesaid, and each acre is worth 3*d.* by the year, and they are held of the said bishop. The said Ralph was seised in his demesne as of fee of 20 acres of meadow in Hyde aforesaid, each acre worth 6*d.* by the year, and they are held of the said bishop. The said Ralph was seised of 60 acres of land in Hampton aforesaid, and each acre is worth 2*d.* by the year, and they are held of the Dean of the College of Hampton. And likewise the jurors say that the said Richard, aged four years and more, is his son and next heir.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Chancery Inquisition, p.m., Edward IV., File 63, No. 52.

## RICHARD LANE, A.D. 1494-1517.

As this Richard did not come of age before 1494 the Richard Lane named in the following suits must have been his uncle. In fact, in the suit of 1477, he is expressly described as the son of Marjory Lane, the grandmother of this Richard.

At Hillary term, 15 E. IV. (1475), Hugh Eggerton and Richard Lane, the executors of the will of Marjory Lane, late executrix of the will of John Lane, sued *in banco* Henry Wranweton and two others for a debt of 40s.<sup>1</sup>

At Hillary term, 17 E. IV. (1477), Hugh Eggerton, who is described as the brother of Marjory Lane, and Richard Lane, who is called the son of Marjory, the executors of the will of Marjory Lane, sued William Colyns of Brewood for a debt of 40s.<sup>2</sup>

At Michaelmas term 20 E. IV. (1450), Richard Lane, executor of the will of Ralph Lane late of Hyde, co. Stafford, and Edward Burton and Joyce, co-executrix of the said Richard, sued William Barbour for a debt of £20.<sup>3</sup> The co-executrix Joyce was the widow of Ralph Lane who had died in 1477.

Richard Lane, the younger, came of age in 1494, and married Anne, daughter of John Harcourt of Ranton, co. Stafford, a younger branch of the great house of Harcourts of Stanton Harcourt,<sup>4</sup> by whom he had three sons and five daughters,<sup>5</sup> but some of these must have died in infancy. In February, 22 H. VII. (1507), he made the release respecting common of pasture in Chillington to Cassandra Gifford and her son John, which is printed at p. 231 of *The Giffords, Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. V, New Series. In this deed he styles himself Richard Lane of Hyde, armiger, and the Hyde appears to have been their usual place of residence. In April, 1513, Richard, being about to pass beyond the seas in the King's expedition into France, or, as he expresses

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. VI, New Series, part 1, p. 98.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 112.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 128.

<sup>4</sup> Glover's Visitation of 1583 makes Anne a daughter of Sir Richard Harcourt, but this is a mistake (see p. 250 of the Wrottesley history and Grazebrook's notes on the Visitation of 1583). Isabella Wrottesley, the wife of Walter Wrottesley, was the sister of Anne Harcourt, who married Richard Lane.

<sup>5</sup> Monument in Brewood Church.

it, "entending to do the Kinges Grace service in thys, hys vyage Royall beyond the see," made his last will and testament which will be found at full length in the Inquisitions post-mortem taken after his death. If he carried out his intention, which there is no reason to doubt, he would have been probably present at the battle of the Spurs and the sieges of Tournay and Terouenne. He died on the 28th January, 1516-17,<sup>1</sup> at the early age of forty-four, leaving a son and heir, John, five years of age.

The Inquisition taken after his death was very full and detailed. An abstract of it is given below.

#### ABSTRACT.

Inquisition taken at Stafford, 15 June, 8 Henry VIII. [1516], by virtue of the King's writ of *Diem clausit extremum* after the death of Richard Lane, esquire. The jurors say on their oath that the said Richard Lane some time before his death was seised in his demesne as of fee of two parts of the manor of Bentley, with its appurtenances, in the county aforesaid, and also of the bailiwick of keeping the Hay of Bentley, together with the reversion of the third part of the manor aforesaid, with the appurtenances, as of fee. Which said third part Edward Burton and Joyce, his wife, then held as the dower of the said Joyce, the reversion belonging to the said Richard and his heirs. And further the jurors say that William Robenet, perpetual vicar of Brewode, and Sir William Ferrour, perpetual vicar of Busshebury, were seised in their demesne as of fee of 7 messuages, 200 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, and 10 acres of wood, and the moiety of 1 acre of meadow called "Gottokez medowe," of the yearly value of 18*d.* in Coven, Gunston and Bromehalle, and by their charter they gave and granted those tenements to a certain Ralph Lane and to the said Joyce, then his wife, as yet alive, and to their issue, in default to remain to the right heirs of the said Ralph. And they had issue the said Richard. And the said Ralph died; after whose death the said tenements descended to the said Richard as son and heir of the said Ralph. And further the jurors say that the said Richard Lane, so being seised of the two parts of the manor of Bentley, and of the bailiwick, and of the reversion of the third part of the manor of Bentley, and the reversion of the said tenements, by his charter gave and granted those tenements to Francis Talbot, son and heir apparent of George, Earl of Shrewsbury, Henry Flemyng, clerk, vicar of the parish church of Brewode, Richard Harcourt and Walter Wrottesley, gentleman; to have to them and to their heirs for ever to fulfil the last will of the said Richard. And afterwards the said Richard Lane made his last will

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<sup>1</sup> This is the date named on his tomb in Brewood Church. The Inquisition states he died on February 1st.

concerning the premises by his deed indented. Which said will follows in these words :

In the name of Good Amen. To all people to whom thys present wrytting indentyd schall cum to, I Richard Lane of Hyde in the Countie of Stafford, Squyer, beyng of hoole myend declare this my last wyll concernyng all my landez and tenementes within the Countie of Stafford in maner and forme followyng. Furst, where I the seid Richard haue by my dede indentyd beryng date the xiiijth day of Aprill in the iijth yere of the Reign of King Henry the vijth infeffed Fraunces son and heire apparaunt to George, Erle of Shrosbury, Henry Flemyng, prist vicar of Brewood, Rychard Harecourt and Walter Wrottesley of and in all my landes and tenementes, medoys, lesoes and pastures, rentes, reversiones and services with thee appurtenances in Bentley, Coven, Gunston and Bromhalle within the Countie of Stafford with the reversion of all landes and tenementes the weche Joys my moder holdeth for terme of hue lyffe in Bentley, etc. I the seid Richard Lane entydyng to do the Kynges grace service in thys hys vyage Royall beyonde the see declare my will in maner and forme foloyng, that ys to sey that my seid feffes and there heires schall stande and be seased of and in all the seid landez and tenementes in Bentley, Coven, Gunston and Bromehalle afore seid to the use of me the seid Rychard Lane for the terme of my lyffe without impeachment of waste, And after my decease I will that my seid feffes and their heires of the issues and profettes of the seid landes do gyffe to euery of my doughteres Alice, Iohan and Darothe threscore poundes of laful money to the preferment of there mariage in condicion that they and euery on of them be maried with the concent and agrement of Anne my wyffe and the above namyd Rychard Harecourt. And els they and eny of them so maryeng her selffe with oute concent of the seid Anne my wyffe and Rychard Harecourt to have noo parte of the seid summe of threscore poundes so appoynted to them and euery of them in mariage. And after thys my will in the premisses performyd I will that my said feffes and their heires stande and be seased of and in the premisses to the use of the heirez of me the seid Rychard Lane for ever. Also I wyll that Anne my wyffe haue and enjoye the maner of Hyde oder wyse the Lee with all oder landes and tenementes within the Countie of Stafford wherof she hath estate in ioynture accordyng to the effecte and entent of the feffementes theroff made to any person or persons to hur use And also that Joyce my mother haue and enjoye all landes and tenements to her appoyntyd in name of hur jointure and dower without interrupcion of me or of myn heirez. Also I wyll that yf hyt happen me the seid Rychard Lane to dysceasse in this viage that my executours do marie or make bargen of mariage of John Lane my son and heire apparant with suche person convenient as they by ther discrecion schall thinke convenient and apte he to be maried accordyng to hys degre and suche summez of money as shalbe receyued for his mariag to be bestowyd for the paymente of my dettes fyndyng a preste accordyng to the dyscrecion of my executours and the resydue therof to be surely kepte by my wyffe to the use

of the seid John, my son and heire apparaunt. And I the seid Rychard by thys my last wyll make my executours the seid Anne my wyffe, Sir Herry Flemyng, preste, and Rychard Harecourt. In wisse whereoff to eyder parte of thys my present last wyll endented I haue putte my sealle. Yoven the xvth day of Aprill yn the forthe yere of the Reign of our Soueren Lord Kyng Harry the vijth.

Moreover the jurors say that the said Richard Lane was seised in his demesne as of fee of the manor of Hyde otherwise Le Lee in the county aforesaid, and of four messuages in Hyde, Stretton, and in the parish of Brewode, and of divers lands and tenements in Brewode, and also of the reversion of two messuages in Stretton, Hyde, and in the parish of Brewode with all lands and tenements to the same pertaining, as of fee. Which said lands and tenements in Stretton, Hyde, and the parish of Brewode, Edward Burton and Joyce, his wife, now hold as the reasonable dower of the said Joyce, the reversion belonging to the said Richard Lane and his heirs. And so being seised, by his charter he gave and granted to Thomas Harecourte, esquire, and Mayo Moreton those manor, reversion, and tenements, to have to them and to their heirs for ever. And so being seised, by their charter the said Thomas and Mayo granted those manor, reversion and tenements to the said Richard and Agnes [*sic*] his wife, and to the heirs of the said Richard. The said Richard died, and the said Agnes survived him. And further the jurors say that the said Richard was seised of one messuage in Hampton and of 124 acres of land in Hampton, and of one messuage, 100 acres of land, 200 acres of pasture, 60 acres of wood, and of the advowson of the church of Blymhill when it shall happen. The manor of Bentley together with the bailiwick of keeping the Hay are worth £6 6s. 8d. by the year beyond reprises and are held of the King-in-chief by the third part of one knight's fee. The lands in Coven are worth 30s. by the year beyond reprises, and are held of Sir Simon Harecourt, knight. The tenements in Bromehall are worth 10s. by the year beyond reprises, and are held of Geoffrey, bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. The manor called Le Hyde and the tenements in Brewode are worth £10 12s. by the year beyond reprises, and are held of Sir John Gyfford, knight, by the service of the fourth part of one knight's fee. The tenements in Stretton are worth 40s. by the year beyond reprises, and are held of Ralph Congreve, gentleman. The lands in Gunston are worth 6s. by the year beyond reprises, and are held of the said Sir John Gyfford. The tenements in Hampton are worth 6 marks by the year beyond reprises, and are held of the Duke of Norfolk. The tenements in Blymhyl and Brynton and the advowson of the church of Blymhyl are worth 60s. by the year beyond reprises, and are held of the Duke of Buckingham. The tenements in Brewode are held of the Bishop of Chester, and are worth 20s. by the year beyond reprises. The said Richard Lane died on the first day of February 8 Henry VIII, [1516-7]. John Lane is son and next heir of the said Richard and of the age of five years and upwards.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Chancery Inquisitions p.m. Series II, Vol. 32, No. 38.







**RICHARD LANE.**

b. 1472. d. 1517.

*And Anne, his wife, daughter of John Harcourt, of Ranton.  
Incised slab in Brewood Church.*

Richard Lane and Anne, his wife, were buried in Brewood Church, where an alabaster slab, showing portraits of himself and wife in black lines, was discovered in 1878 on the removal of the pavement of the south aisle. Richard is shown in armour, Anne in the square headdress of the period and chain and pomander-box. Between the figures were two coats of arms, that of Lane showing a chevron gules between three mullets azure, the other coat being indecipherable. At the foot of the slab were depicted eight children, viz., five female figures and three males. The inscription on the slab was *Hic jacent Ricardus Lane armiger et Anna uxor ejus. Tui quidem Ricardus obiit xxviii Ianuarii, anno domini 1517, et Anna.*

Anne survived her husband, and was remarried shortly afterwards to Thomas Partrich of King's Bromley.<sup>1</sup>

#### JOHN LANE, A.D. 1533-1576.

By Letters Patent dated 12 November, 9 H. VIII. (1517), the wardship of John, son and heir of Richard Lane of Le Hyde, co. Stafford, was granted to Thomas Parteriche, who, after much litigation, had established his right to the manor of King's Bromley, and had been included in the first Commission of the Peace of the reign of Henry VIII.<sup>2</sup> This Thomas was probably a descendant of the Perdrich family, which first occurs in the annals of Staffordshire as yeomen freeholders in Alrewas.<sup>3</sup>

According to the dates given in the Inquisitions taken after the death of Richard Lane, his son John should have come of age in 1533, but nearly three years elapsed before he obtained livery of seisin from the Crown. This took place by Letters Patent dated 4 February, 27 H. VIII. (1536), in a long and complicated document, of which the following is an abstract.

Grant to John Lane, gentleman, son and heir of Richard Lane, deceased, lately under age; Inasmuch as Sir Francis lord Talbott, son and heir apparent of George, earl of Shrewsbury, Henry Flemmyng, vicar of Brewoode, Richard Harrecourt, and Walter Wrottesley, are seised, *inter*

<sup>1</sup> Shaw's *Staffordshire*.

<sup>2</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. X, New Series, pp. 83, 94, and Vol. VI, New Series, part 2, p. 253.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. X, New Series, p. 265.

*alia*, of two thirds of the manor of Bentley, co. Staff., and o. the bailiwick of keeping the hay of Bentley with the reversion of the third part of the said manor by the gift and enfeoffment of the said Richard Lane to the use of the said Richard's will that the said John Lane and also the said Lord Talbott and the other feoffees being seised without proof of the age of the said John, and without any livery of his inheritance or of any parcel thereof being sued forth, can enter into the manor and hay aforesaid and into all other manors, lands, reversions, etc., whereof as well the said Richard Lane as Jocosa, late the wife of Ralph Lane, now deceased, father of the said Richard, or any of the said Richard's ancestors were seised. And also into the reversion of all the manors, etc., which Anne, late wife of the said Richard Lane, now holds for her life, of the inheritance of the said John, and enjoy and hold them to the said John and his heirs, without any inquisition or inquisitions to be taken after the deaths of the said Richard, Jocosa or Anne or of any ancestor of the said John, and without any other livery to be sued forth or obtained, and without account of any issues of the said manors, etc., from the time of the death of the said Richard and Jocosa to be made. Also grant to them of all the issues, profits, rents, etc., of all the said manors, etc., from the deaths of the said Richard and Jocosa up to this time. Dated at Westminster, 4th February.<sup>1</sup>

At the General Muster of 1539 John Lane, described as John Layne Esquyer, was returned as prepared to supply "horse and harness" for two men.<sup>2</sup> As his name occurs under Chillington, he must have been resident at this date at The Hyde. In the same return William Lane is named under Wolverhampton, an able man, as ready to supply a salet (a steel cap) and a Standard.<sup>3</sup>

John Lane married Catharine, the daughter of Thomas Partrich, his guardian in chivalry, by whom he had issue Thomas, Richard and John.<sup>4</sup> He died on the 17th November, 1576.<sup>5</sup> The following is an abstract of the Inquisition which was taken after his death.

WRIT DATED 4TH FEBRUARY 19 ELIZABETH [1576-7].

Inquisition taken at Wullverhampton, co. Stafford, 1st April 19 Elizabeth [1577] by virtue of the commission of the Lady the Queen in the nature of a writ of *Diem clausit extremum* after the death of John Lane, esquire. The jurors say that the aforesaid John Lane some time before his death was seised

<sup>1</sup> Patent Roll, 27 H. VIII., part 1, No. 38.

<sup>2</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. V, New Series, p. 265.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, New Series, part 1, p. 64.

<sup>4</sup> Shaw's *Staffordshire*.

<sup>5</sup> Inquisition p.m., 19 Elizabeth.

in his demesne as of fee of the manor of Bentley, with the appurtenances and of one messuage, two cottages, 200 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 400 acres of pasture, 40 acres of wood, 20 acres of furze and heath, and 9s. rent in Bentley, co. Stafford, and also of the bailiwick of keeping the Hay of Bentley, and of the manor of Coven with all its members and appurtenances, and of one messuage, one cottage, 100 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 40 acres of furze and waste, and 10 shillings rent in Coven, and of 4 messuages, 200 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, and 100 acres of pasture in Stretton, and of 20 acres of pasture in Featherston, and of the manor of Bromehall and of 40 acres of land, 2 acres of meadow, 30 acres of pasture, and 5 acres of wood to the manor of Bromhall belonging and pertaining, and of a yearly chief rent of 15 pence issuing from certain lands of one Henry Rocke, in Bromhall aforesaid, and of one messuage, one water-mill, 40 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, and 100 acres of pasture in Le Hyde, and of 10 acres of land, 7 acres of meadow, and 30 acres of pasture in Chillington, and of 52 cartloads of estovers of suitable wood to be taken yearly for ever in a suitable place in the woods of Chillington, and of the manor of Gunston, with the appurtenances, and of two messuages, 100 acres of land, 4 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture, and 7s. 5*d.* rent in Gunston, and of 20 acres of meadow, and 30 acres of pasture in Codsall and Bilbrocke, and of one messuage, 60 acres of land, 8 acres of meadow, and 30 acres of pasture in Blymmell and Brynton, co. Stafford. The said John Lane was seised as of fee and right of the moiety of the advowson of the rectory of the parish church of Blymmell aforesaid, namely, as often as it shall happen to be vacant five times (*quociens eam quinques vacare contigerit*), and of one cottage, 42 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, and 52 acres of pasture in Wullverhampton, and of one messuage, 10 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 10 acres of wood, and of a yearly chief rent of 2s. 8*d.* issuing from land lately belonging to William Hove in Wednesfield, and of three messuages, 6 acres of land, 6 acres of meadow, and 16 acres of pasture in Brewood. And moreover the jurors say that the aforesaid John Lane by his certain writing of feoffment bearing date the 12th day of January 1 Elizabeth [1558-9] gave, granted, enfeoffed, and confirmed to John Wrottesley, Thomas Threntham, Roger Partriche, esquires, and William Astyn, gentlemen, all the aforesaid manors, lands, tenements, and other all and singular the premises, the manor of Bentley and the premises in Bentley only excepted. To have and to hold all the premises, except the before excepted, to the aforesaid John Wrottesley, Thomas, Roger, and William, the heirs and assigns for ever, to the only use and behoof of the aforesaid John Lane and of his assigns during the natural life of the said John without impeachment of any waste; and after the decease of the said John to the use and behoof of Thomas Lane, son and heir apparent of the said John, and of the heirs of the said Thomas Lane upon the body of Katherine Threntham lawfully begotten or to be begotten, and for default of such issue to the use and behoof of the right heirs of the said John Lane for ever. And the jurors further say that the aforesaid John Lane and Thomas Lane by a certain other indenture

made between the said John and Thomas Lane, of the one part, and a certain John Lane, younger son of the said John Lane, and Cassandra Fowke, one of the daughters of a certain Anne Fowke, widow, of the other part, bearing date 3rd February 8 Elizabeth [1565-6] demised to the said John Lane, the younger, and Cassandra Fowke the tenements aforesaid in Wullverhampton ; to have and to hold to the aforesaid John and Cassandra for the term of the lives of the said John and Cassandra and the life of the longest liver of them. Rendering therefor yearly to the said John, the father, and Thomas Lane £7. Which said John and Cassandra are yet in full life at Wullhampton. And the jurors say that the manor of Bentley and the other premises in Bentley are held of the Lady the Queen in chief by the service of the third part of one knight's fee, and they are worth by the year in all issues beyond reprises £17 16s. The manor of Coven and the premises in Coven are held of the Lady the Queen as of the barony of Stafford and are worth £4 12*d.* by the year beyond reprises. The premises in Stretton are held of Francis Congreave, esquire, as of his manor of Stretton by fealty and a yearly rent of 4*s.* 2*d.* and are worth £3 13*s.* 6*d.* by the year beyond reprises. The premises in Fetherston are held of John Creswell as of his prebend of Featherston by fealty and a yearly rent of 2*d.* and are worth 16*s.* by the year beyond reprises. The manors of Bromhall and Gunston and all the premises in Bromhall, Gunston, and Brewood, are held of Thomas, bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, as of his manor of Brewood aforesaid by fealty and 9*s.* 6*d.* of yearly rent, and are worth £8 5*s.* 6*d.* by the year beyond reprises. The messuage of Le Hide and the premises in Le Hide are held of the said bishop as of his manor of Brewood by fealty and a yearly rent of 1*d.* and are worth £10 by the year beyond reprises. The premises and estovers in Chillington are held of John Gyfford, esquire, as of his manor of Chillington by fealty and a yearly rent of 4*s.* 1*d.* and are worth 20*s.* by the year beyond reprises. The premises in Codsall and Billbrocke are worth 31*s.* 8*d.* by the year beyond reprises. The premises in Blymmell and Brynton are held of the Lady the Queen as of the barony of Stafford and are worth £3 10*s.* by the year beyond reprises. Certain parcels of the premises in Wullverhampton are held of John Gifforde and Walter Levisson, esquires, as of their manor of Stowheath by fealty and a yearly rent of 22*d.* And other parcels of the premises in Wullverhampton, called "le Rombelose," are held of the heirs of William Underhill, gentlemen, by fealty and the yearly rent of 2*s.* 6*d.* The residue of the premises in Wullverhampton and the premises in Weddnesfield are held of the said Walter Leveson, farmer, of the Dean of Wullverhampton, by fealty and the yearly rent of 11*s.* and are worth £9 11*s.* 4*d.* by the year beyond reprises. And further the jurors say that the said John Lane named in the commission died on the 17 day of November last past, and that the aforesaid Thomas Lane, aged 45 years and more, is his son and next heir.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Chancery Inquisitions p.m., Series II, Vol. 179, No. 69.

## THOMAS LANE, A.D. 1576-1589.

According to the Inquisitions which have been quoted Thomas Lane, the son of John, would have been born in 1531. At this date his father was only nineteen years of age, a curious effect of the infant marriages of this era.

At Easter term, 17 Elizabeth (1575), a fine was levied between Thomas Lane, armiger, and Winefred Stanley, widow, and others, by which Thomas acquired for himself and his heirs about 100 acres of land in Bentley.<sup>1</sup> Winifred Stanley was the widow of Francis Stanley of West Bromwich, and held that manor for her life.<sup>2</sup>

In the following year Thomas Lane and Katharine, his wife, and Germain Roper, by a Fine levied at Michaelmas term, 18 Elizabeth (1575), released all their right in the manor of King's Bromley to Francis Agarde and his heirs.<sup>3</sup> The interests of Thomas and Katharine in the manor must have arisen from some prior feoffment which has not been preserved.

At the second Subsidy granted by the Laity to Queen Elizabeth in the eighteenth year of her reign (1576), Thomas Lane, armiger, was assessed at £15 a year, for which he had to find two light horsemen.<sup>4</sup> When Glover Norroy, Somerset Herald, made his visitation of Staffordshire in 1583, Thomas Lane, who is described as of Hyde and Bentley, armiger and Justice of the Peace, was summoned to record his descent and arms, but, unfortunately for this history, he recorded neither.<sup>5</sup>

He married Katherine, daughter of Richard Trentham of Rocester,<sup>6</sup> by whom, according to his monument at Wolverhampton, he had five sons and seven daughters. Of these sons John succeeded him, and two others were named respectively Thomas and Michael.<sup>7</sup> One of the daughters, Cassandra, married Thomas Littleton, third son of Sir Edward Littleton of

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XIV, p. 179.

<sup>2</sup> *History of West Bromwich*, by Mary Willett.

<sup>3</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XIV, p. 188.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. III, part 2, p. 18.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 4.

<sup>6</sup> Glover's Visitation, 1583. *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. III, part 2, pp. 140 and 200.

<sup>7</sup> *The Lane History*, by Henry Murray Lane, Chester Herald, 1898.

Pillatohale.<sup>1</sup> He died on the 9th of May, 1588,<sup>2</sup> and was buried in the Lane chancel of St. Peter's Church, Wolverhampton, where a handsome altar tomb was set up in his memory. This tomb still exists in good preservation, and shows a recumbent figure of him in armour with the Elizabeth ruff round his neck. At his side lies his wife in the well known dress of the period. On the tomb are the following coats of arms:—

1. Party per fesse or and azure, a chevron gules between three mullets counterchanged (Lane).
2. A lion rampant, ermine (Hyde).
3. Gules two bars or (Harcourt).
4. Ermine a fesse fretty or (Egerton).
5. Gules a scythe argent (Partrich).
6. Argent three griffins' heads erased sable (Trentham).
7. Argent, on a lion rampant sable, a fesse countercomponée or and azure (Burley).
8. Argent, a chevron between three escallops sable (Littleton).
9. Or, three piles sable, a quarter ermine (Wrottesley).

The Inquisition taken after the death of Thomas Lane has been preserved, and is as follows:—

Inquisition taken at Wulverhampton, 16 January, 31 Elizabeth [1588-9] by virtue of a commission of the Lady the Queen in the nature of a writ of *diem clausit extremum* after the death of Thomas Lane, esquire. The jurors say on their oath that the said Thomas Lane was seised in his demesne as of fee of the manor of Bentley, with the appurtenances, and of one messuage, two cottages, 200 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 400 acres of pasture, 40 acres of wood, 20 acres of furze and heath, and 9s. rent in Bentley, co. Stafford, and of the Hay of Bentley, otherwise Bentley Haye, within the Forest of Cannocke, and of the herbage, mines of sea coals, and other profits growing and renewing in the same Hay, or to the same Hay in any manner belonging. And further the jurors say that the said Thomas Lane by his certain writing bearing date 28 March, 25 Elizabeth [1583] in performance of certain covenants contained in certain Indentures made between the said Thomas Lane, of the one part, and William Gorwey, James Ducye, John Curteys, Richard Wythington, Thomas Webbe, John Stone of Digbath, Thomas Gorwey, Christopher Adamson, John Wullaston, Hugh Lydyat,

<sup>1</sup> *The Lane History*, by Henry Murray Lane, Chester Herald, 1898.

<sup>2</sup> Inquisitions p.m., p. 171, *infra*.



Robert Gorwen, and William Adamson, of Walsall, co. Stafford, of the other part, bearing date the 26th day of March, then last past, gave, granted, and confirmed to Nicholas Stone, John Hodgekins, of Walsall, and John Stone, on the hill of Walsall, their heirs and assigns for ever a certain annuity or yearly rent of £13 6s. 8d. issuing in respect of the said Hay of Bentley, the manor of Bentley, and other the premises in Bentley; to hold the said annuity to the said Nicholas, John, and John, their heirs and assigns for ever to their own use. And, moreover, the jurors say that the said Thomas Lane was seised in his demesne as of fee of the manor of Coven, with the appurtenances, and of one messuage, one cottage, 100 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 40 acres of furze and heath, and 10s. rent in Coven, co. Stafford. And of 4 messuages, 200 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 120 acres of pasture, and 20 acres of wood in Stretton, co. Stafford. And of 20 acres of pasture in Fetherston, co. Stafford. And of the manor of Bromehall, and of 40 acres of land, 2 acres of meadow, 30 acres of pasture, and 5 acres of wood to the said manor of Bromehall pertaining. And of a yearly chief rent of 15d. issuing from lands of a certain Henry Rocke in Bromehall. And of a capital messuage called Le Hide, one watermill, 40 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, and 140 acres of pasture in Le Hide, co. Stafford. And of 16 acres of land, 7 acres of meadow, and 30 acres of pasture in Chillington, co. Stafford, and of fifty-two cartloads of estovers to be taken yearly in the woods of Chillington, And of the manor of Gunston and of two messuages, 120 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 40 acres of pasture, and 7s. 5d. rent in Gunston. And of 20 acres of meadow and 30 acres of pasture in Codsall and Bilbrocke, co. Stafford. And of one messuage, 60 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, and 30 acres of pasture in Blymhall and Brynton, co. Stafford. And also the jurors say that the said Thomas Lane was seised as of fee and right of the moiety of the advowson of the parish church of Blymhall "quociens eam quinques vacare contigerit." And of one toft, one cottage, 42 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, and 52 acres of pasture in Wolverhampton, and of one messuage, 10 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 10 acres of wood, and a yearly chief rent of 2s. 8d. issuing from lands lately belonging to William Hoo in Wednesfield, co. Stafford, and of three messuages, 6 acres of land, 6 acres of meadow, and 16 acres of pasture in Breewood, co. Stafford, and of a parcel of pasture containing the sixth part of one acre in Walsall, and of one parcel of meadow containing the eighth part of one acre in Darlaston, in the county aforesaid. And, further, the jurors say that the said Thomas Lane by his writing indented bearing date the 4th day of June, 26 Elizabeth [1584] in part performance of certain covenants specified in certain indentures made between the said Thomas Lane, of the one part, and a certain Alice Littleton, widow, late the wife of Sir Edward Littleton, knight, deceased, of the other part, in consideration of a marriage then had and solemnized between John Lane, gentleman, son and heir apparent of the said Thomas, and Jane Littleton, a daughter of the said Sir Edward Littleton, knight, and Alice, gave, granted, enfeoffed, and confirmed to Thomas Trentham and others all the said manors, &c., to have

and to hold to the said Thomas Trentham and others and to their heirs for ever to the several uses and intents in the said indentures specified. That is to say, concerning the manors of Coven, Bromehall, and Gunston, and all the said tenements in Coven, Bromehall, Gunston, Hyde Breewood, Fetherston, Chillington, Stretton, Codsall, Bilbrocke, Blymhall and Brynton (one messuage and all lands with the same usually occupied, in Coven, now or late in the tenure of Richard Traunter or of his assigns only excepted) to the use of the said John Lane and Jane Littleton for their lives and the life of the longest liver of them, and after the decease of the said John and Jane to the use of the heirs of the body of the said John of the body of the said Jane lawfully begotten and to be begotten, in default to the use of the heirs of the body of the said John lawfully begotten, in default to the use of the said Thomas Lane, and of his heirs for ever. And concerning the manor of Bentley, the Hay of Bentley, the herbage, mines of sea coals and other profits in the same Hay, and the premises in Bentley, Wolverhampton, and Wednesfield, and the said messuage and tenements in Coven now or late in the tenure of the said Richard Traunter, to the use of the said Thomas Lane for the term of his life, and after the decease of the said Thomas to the use of the said John Lane and of the heirs of his body lawfully begotten and to be begotten by him of the body of the said Jane, in default to the use of the heirs of the body of the said John Lane lawfully begotten, in default to the use of the right heirs of the said Thomas for ever, under the conditions expressed in the said indentures made between the said Thomas Lane and the said Alice, as follows in English words.

Provided alwayes and it is agreed betwene the said parties to their indentures that the said Thomas Lane at all and everie tyme and tymes duringe his naturall lief shall and maie by writinge indented demise, graunt, and to farme lett the said messuage or tenemente and all landes, tenementes, &c., in Coven now or late in the tenure of the said Richarde Traunter or his assignes, and all the said messuages, landes, tenementes and hereditamentes in Bentley (other thanne . . . the mannor of Bentley aforesaid wherein the said Thomas Lane nowe dwelleth in Bentley aforesaid, and all howses, edifices, landes, &c., nowe or late in the occupacion or manurance of the said Thomas Lane, and the said Hay of Bentley otherwise called Bentley Hay, and the herbage and coale mines cominge and arisinge in the same) to any person or persons [for the term] of one and twentie yeres or under and not above in suche manner and forme as a tenant in taile is enabled to make leases for one and twentie yeres, &c., and that then the said estate and assurance soe to be made by the said Thomas Lane as is aforesaid of and in the premises or any parcell thereof soe to be leased . . . Edwarde Littleton, Thomas Littleton and Richarde Ley [*feoffees of the 4th June, 26 Elizabeth*] and their heires and the survivor of them and his and their heires shall stande and be thereof seised to thuse or suche person or persons to whome suche lease . . . or their executors and assignes for and duringe the terme and interest to be comprised in suche lease or leases, &c. Provided also and it is further agreeede betwene the same parties to their

indentures that the said Thomas Lane shall and maye at all times duringe his naturall lief by his laste will and testament in writinge or by any other acte lawfullie executed in his lief time convey, assure, devise or appointe to his executours or to any other person or persons the said Manor of Bentley, Bentley Haye, the herbage and coale mynes of the same and also all the said messuages, landes and tenementes in Bentley aforesaid, other than the scite of the Mannor or Mansion howse of Bentley aforesaid . . . tenementes, milles and Blomesmithies in Bentley aforesaid nowe or late in the occupation or manurance of the said Thomas Lane for terme of twelve yeres or under [&c. *A large portion of the inquisition is illegible*]. And further the jurors say that the said Thomas Lane named in the commission died on the 9th day of May last past [1588], and that the said John Lane, aged 24 years and more, is son and next heir of the said Thomas.<sup>1</sup>

#### JOHN LANE, A.D. 1588-1605.

According to the Inquisition taken after his father's death, John Lane would have been born in 1564. He first appears on the public Records as party to a Fine in 1591, by which he sold to William Hurcote and Elizabeth, the wife of William, a messuage and 90 acres of land in Wolverhampton and Wednesfield, the price paid to him was £216, which would represent about £1,300 at the present time.<sup>2</sup> In the same year, by another Fine, he enfeoffed Thomas Leveson and four others in an estate in Wolverhampton and Wednesfield.<sup>3</sup> Both these Fines were levied in conjunction with his wife Jane, who must have been jointly enfeoffed with him in the lands in question.<sup>4</sup> In the following year he sold to John Giffard of Chillington 255 acres of land in Hatton and Brewood, for which he received 260 marks,<sup>5</sup> equivalent to about £1,000 at the present day.

In 1593, in conjunction with his wife Jane, he levied a Fine respecting lands in Coven and Codsall, and another Fine respecting land in Wolverhampton. These Fines were levied without doubt for certain "uses," which would be expressed in deeds which have not come down to us.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Chancery Inquisitions p.m., Series II, Vol. 223, No. 71, Public Record Office.

<sup>2</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XVI, p. 108.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 110.

<sup>4</sup> *Infra*, p. 176.

<sup>5</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XVI, p. 117.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 138. As all these lands were subsequently sold these deeds would have formed part of the title to the lands and have passed to the purchasers of them.

In 1596, in conjunction with his wife, he sold to John Fowke lands and rents in Gunston, Chillington, Codsall, Bilbrooke and Brewood, for which he received £160,<sup>1</sup> equivalent to about £1,000 at the present day.

John Lane died on the 25th of June, 1605, and was succeeded by a son named Thomas, but he appears to have had a son John, who died in the life time of his father, for in the latter part of his career he is designated as John Lane the elder. By a Fine levied in 41 Elizabeth (1598) between Robert Lane on the one side and John Lane the elder, and Richard Lane and Margaret his wife on the other side, the latter parties to the Fine remitted all rights in six acres of meadow in Wednesfield to Robert Lane and his heirs.<sup>2</sup> In 43 Elizabeth (1601) a William Lane and Joyce his wife are parties to a Fine respecting land in Wolverhampton,<sup>3</sup> and these three, Richard, Robert and William, are without doubt members of the family of Lane of Bentley. The Inquisition taken on his death was as follows:—

Writ dated 1 July, 3 James I. [1605] to the Escheator in co. Stafford directs him to take into the King's hands all the lands and tenements whereof John Lane, esquire, was seised in his demesne as of fee on the day that he died.

Inquisition taken at Walsall, in the county aforesaid, 16 September, 3 James I. [1605] after the death of John Lane, esquire, deceased. The jurors say on their oath that some time before the death of the said John Lane, a certain Thomas Lane, esquire, now deceased, father of the said John Lane, was seised in his demesne as of fee of the manor of Bentley, co. Stafford, and of one messuage, two cottages, 200 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 400 acres of pasture, 40 acres of wood, 20 acres of furze and heath, and 9s. rent in Bentley, and of the Hay of Bentley, otherwise Bentley Haye, with the appurtenances, within the Forest of Cannock, in the county aforesaid, and of the herbage, mines of sea coals, and other profits growing and renewing in the same Hay or to the same Hay in whatsoever manner belonging. And of the manor of Coven with all its members and appurtenances, and of one messuage, one cottage, 100 acres of land, 40 acres of furze and heath, and 10s. rent in Coven, co. Stafford. And of four messuages, 200 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 120 acres of pasture, and 20 acres of wood in Stretton, co. Stafford. And of 20 acres of pasture in Fetherston, co. Stafford. And of the manor of Bromhall and divers tenements in Bromhall and Brewood, co. Stafford. And of a yearly chief

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XVI, p. 169.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XIV, p. 194.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 207.

rent of 15*d.* issuing from lands of a certain Matthew Rocke in Bromhall. And of a capital messuage called Le Hyde, one watermill, 40 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, and 140 acres of pasture in Le Hyde, co. Stafford. And of 16 acres of land, 7 acres of meadow, and 30 acres of pasture in Chillington, co. Stafford. And of 52 cartloads of suitable wood to be taken in a suitable place in the woods of Chillington yearly for ever. And of 20 acres of meadow and 30 acres of pasture in Codsall and Bilbrooke, co. Stafford. And of one messuage, 60 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, and 30 acres of pasture in Blymhill and Brympton, and of one parcel of pasture containing the sixth part of one acre in Walsall, and of one parcel of meadow containing the eighth part of one acre in Dorlaston, co. Stafford. And the jurors say that the said Thomas Lane was seised as of fee and right of a moiety of the advowson of the rectory of the parish church of Blymhill, namely, “*quotiens eam quinquies vacare contigerit.*” And the said Thomas Lane by his writing of feoffment indented, the date of which is the fourth day of June, 14 Elizabeth [*&c.*, See *Inq. p.m.*, 223 (71)]. The said Thomas Lane died; after whose death the said manor, hay, &c., entirely remained to the said John Lane and to the heirs of his body begotten and to be begotten by him of the body of the said Jane. And the jurors say that the said John Lane immediately after the making of the said writing of feoffment took to wife the said Jane Lyttleton. And further the Jurors say that the said John Lane was seised in his demesne as of fee of three messuages and divers tenements in Coven, Penford, Bromefeld, and Aspley or some of them, in co. Stafford, which the said John Lane purchased to himself and his heirs of the gift and feoffment of John Fowke, esquire; and of one other messuage and certain lands, tenements, meadows, and pastures in Coven which the same John purchased to himself and his heirs of the gift and feoffment of John Fowke, gentleman. And of 12 acres of pasture in Bentley which he likewise purchased to himself and his heirs of the gift and feoffment of George Whithall, gentleman. The manor of Bentley and the said messuage, two cottages, 200 acres of land, &c., in Bentley are held of the King in chief by knight service, namely, by the service of the third part of one knight's fee, and they are worth £11 16*s.* by the year beyond reprises. Bentley Haye and the herbage, mines of sea coal, &c., are held of the King in chief by the hundredth part of one knight's fee, and are worth 100*s.* by the year beyond reprises. The 12 acres of pasture in Bentley purchased of George Whithall are held of the King in chief by knight service, and are worth 20*s.* by the year beyond reprises. The pasture containing the sixth part of one acre, in Walsall, is held of Sir Richard Wilbraham, knight, as of his manor of Walsall by fealty only for all services, and is worth 12*d.* by the year. The parcel of meadow containing the eighth part of one acre, in Dorlaston, is held of Henry Offley, esquire, as of his manor of Dorlaston by fealty only for all services, and is worth 8*d.* by the year. The messuage and tenements in the tenure of Richard Traunter, in Coven, are held of the King as of his barony of Stafford by knight service, and are worth 40*s.* by the year beyond reprises. The messuages and premises in Coven purchased of John Fowke,

esquire, are held of the King as of his barony of Stafford by knight service, and are worth 60s. by the year beyond reprises. The manor of Coven and the other premises in Coven are held of the King as of his barony of Stafford by knight service, and are worth 43s. 4*d.* by the year beyond reprises. The four messuages and other premises in Stretton are held of Thomas Congreve, esquire, as of his manor of Stretton by fealty and the yearly rent of 4s. 2*d.*, and are worth 74s. 6*d.* by the year beyond reprises. The 24 acres in Fetherston are held of the proprietor of the prebend of Fetherston by fealty and the rent of 22*d.* by the year, and are worth 20s. by the year beyond reprises. The manor of Bromhall and the premises in Bromhall and Brewood are held of William, bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, as of his manor of Brewood by fealty and a rent of 9s. 6*d.* by the year and are worth £3 by the year, beyond reprises. Le Hyde, the watermill, and the premises in le Hyde are held of the said bishop as of his manor of Brewood by fealty and the rent of 1*d.* by the year, and are worth 10*l.* by the year beyond reprises. The premises and estovers in Chillington are held of John Gyfford, esquire, as of his manor of Chillington by fealty and rent of 4s. 1*d.* by the year, and are worth 20s. 6*d.* by the year beyond reprises. The premises in Codsall and Billbrooke are worth 31s. 10*l.* by the year beyond reprises. The messuage, lands, &c., in Blymhill and Brympton are held of the King as of his barony of Stafford by knight service, and are worth 70s. by the year beyond reprises. The moiety of the advowson of the church of Blomhill is worth nothing by the year, because the said church is full. The said John Lane died on the 25th day of June last past, and Thomas Lane, aged 20 years 1 month and 8 days, is his son and next heir. The said Jane, wife of the said John Lane, is yet in full life at Bentley aforesaid.<sup>1</sup>

#### THOMAS LANE, A.D. 1608–1660.

Thomas Lane, the son of the last John, was a minor at the date of his father's death, but would come of age in the following year, viz., 1606. On the 8th of February, 1608, he married Anne, the eldest daughter of Walter Bagot of Blithfield.<sup>2</sup> She was born the 7th September, 1589,<sup>3</sup> and was therefore between 18 and 19 years of age. It was usual at this epoch to obtain a considerable sum of money for the marriage of an eldest son, and the money so acquired formed the portion of the younger brothers and sisters of the bridegroom, and, owing to the death of John Lane, the father of the heir, before the celebration of the

<sup>1</sup> Chancery Inquisitions p.m., Series II, Vol. 289, No. 87.

<sup>2</sup> Checkley Registers.

marriage this sum of money had fallen into the hands of Thomas, and his mother, Jane Lane, writes from Hyde about this date to Walter Bagot, the father of the bride, the letter which follows:—

Sir,

I think it is high time for me to know what portions my daughter and younger sons should have from their brother, your son-in-law and my son, who has all the inheritance of his father, and who as yet has not satisfied me for the value of his marriage, which he in all equity is to do, if I were a mere stranger to him. I look not for that satisfaction to my own use, but intend it to be wholly to his brethren and sisters. He was contented in regard he might make his choice, which he might have done, as you well know, to give to every of his sisters £60 a year and £100 a year to every of his brethren, and likewise to discharge the debt to my uncle Sir J.<sup>1</sup> to be performed at his hands, and that in regard to his wardship and marriage, and I hope yourself will not think it over much, being but a valuable satisfaction for his marriage. I had thought he would rather have condescended to increase those provisions for the better advancement of his sisters than to abridge them, as I prove he would do if I would accept of his offer, but this much I would desire at your hands and his also, that yourself and my nephew Sir Edward Littleton, and my son (for none others I would be loth to trouble) would some day shortly meet at Cank, where myself, God willing, will give you meeting, and then and there confer and consider of these matters, and thereupon determine of some end and order by which we may; if not, I must eene take that course the law will allow me, which I hope my son will not drive me unto, and so waiting your answer I take leave with my kind commendations to your folks and my sister. From the Hyde the second day of January. Your very loving sister Jane Lane. To my loving brother Walter Bagot, Esq., at Blythfield.

The statement in this letter that her son had all the inheritance does not seem to be true, for the Muster Roll of trained Horse of 1634 returns Mrs. Lane and her son jointly

<sup>1</sup> Sir James Foljambe according to a note in the *Bagot Memorials*.

assessed as a cuirassier.<sup>1</sup> His mother must therefore have been in occupation of part of the inheritance. As the return is made under Offlow Hundred it must refer to the Wolverhampton and Wednesfield property.

Thomas Lane was 60 years of age at the date of the raising of the Royal Standard in 1642. He could therefore have remained in his own house a passive spectator of the struggle, but his zeal for the royal cause led him to join one of the royal garrisons, and on the 17th of May, 1644, the Committee at Stafford ordered Lieutenant Hill, in the march of the convoy to Birmingham, to seize all the horses and cattle of Thomas Lane, Esq., of Bentley, or any of the malignants thereabout, and to sell the cattle at Birmingham and return the money to the Committee. At the same time all his estates were sequestered.

After the disastrous battle of Naseby the King's cause appeared hopeless, and on the 4th of August, 1646, Thomas Lane took the National Oath and Covenant, and later on petitioned that he might be admitted to compound for his delinquency under the terms of the Ordinance of 1st December, 1646.

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Royalist Composition Papers, 2nd Series, Vol. 18, 727.

These are to Certifie that Thomas Lane of Bentley, in the County or Stafford, Esquire, did freely and fully take the National Covenant and subscribe the same upon the ffourth day of August, 1646. The sayd Covenant being administred unto him, according to order by me.

(Signed) Willm. Barton,  
Minister of John Zecharies, London.

Probat. est

M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Lane took the oath this 4<sup>th</sup> of August, 1646.

(Signed) Tho. Vincent.

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Royalist Composition Papers, 2nd Series, Vol. 18, 721.

To the Ho<sup>ble</sup> Co<sup>m</sup>ittee for Composic<sup>o</sup>ns with Delinquents sitting at Goldsmiths' Hall.

The Humble Peti<sup>o</sup>n of Thomas Lane of Bentley, in the County of Stafford, Esq<sup>re</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XV, p. 228.



Sheweth heretofore he deserted his owne habitacõn and went into the King's garrison and there contynued untill Septemb<sup>r</sup>, 1645, and whilst he lived therein he did voluntarily assist the forces raised by the King in this warr for w<sup>ch</sup> he became sequestred.

Now for as much as he hath ever since lived at his owne house hath taken the National Covenant and the negative oath,

His humble desire is he may be admitted to a reasonable composicõn for such his delinquency according to the Ordinance for Delinquents comyng in the first of December last.

And he shall pray, &c.

(Signed) Thomas Lane.

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Royalist Composition Papers, 2nd Series, Vol. 18, 725.

A True and full Particuler of the estate reall and personall or Thomas Lane of Bentley in the County of Stafford, Esq<sup>re</sup>, for w<sup>ch</sup> he desires to compound.

He is seised of an Estate for terme of his owne life the rem<sup>r</sup> to his wief for lief the rem<sup>r</sup> to John Lane and his heires males of his body (who hath compounded for the same revercõn) of the Lordship of Bently in the said County and the Demesnes thereof and other lands thereto belonging of the yearly value before these troubles of £146 17s. 4d.

He is seised of a like Estate for life the rem<sup>r</sup> as aforesaid of and in certaine messuages lands and tenements in Brinton and Stretton in the said County amounting yearly to the value of £15 2s. 0d.

He craves allowance of a certaine fee farme rent payable yearly out of

	£	s.	d.
the said lands to the Crowne amounting to	13	4	
and to the poore of Walsall	10	00	00
and to the poore of Willinhall	33	4	
	<hr/>		
	£12	06	8
	<hr/>		

This is a true and full particuler of my Estate reall and personall for w<sup>ch</sup> I desire to Compound, and doe submitt unto and undertake to satisfie such fyne as by this Committee for Composicõns with Delinquents shalbe imposed and set to pay in order to the freedom and discharge of my Estate.

(Signed) Thomas Lane.

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Royalist Composition Papers, 2nd Series, Vol. 18, 717.

It is ordered by the Comittee at Stafford that Mrs. Lane, wife of Thomas Lane of Bently, Esq<sup>r</sup>, a Delinq<sup>t</sup> for and in consideracõn of the sume of Three score and six Pounds Thirteen Shillings and foure pence to be payed to the Treasurer at Stafford by three severall payments, vid<sup>t</sup>, at the ffeasts of St. Michael the Archangell, the Nativity of our Lord, and the

ffeast of the Purificacõn next ensewing by equal porcõns shall hold and enjoy all her husband's personall Estate in this County without any further Composicõn and his lands and rents with the profits to them belonging until the Annunciacõn next she the said Mrs. Lane paying the weekly paye and other duties belonging to the said lands due from the Annunciacõn last untill the Annunciacõn next.

And Mr. Lane her husband shall have a proteccõn for the security of her person to live at Bently without molestacõn he not voluntarily doing anything w<sup>ch</sup> may be prejuditall to the Parliament. And it is further ordered that the said Mrs. Lane for and in consideracõn of the composicõn aforesaid shall allowe Captaine Tuthill Governo<sup>r</sup> of Rushall Garrison Thirtie stacks of Coles for the mayntenance of his Garrison which he is to fetch from Bently haye.

(Signed) H. Agarde,  
Cler. Concil.

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Royalist Composition Papers, 2nd Series, Vol. 18, 715.

To all Commanders, Officers and Soldiers whom these may concerne.

fforasmuch as Mrs. Lane wife of Thomas Lane, Esq<sup>r</sup>, a Delinq<sup>t</sup> hath compounded with the Co<sup>m</sup>ittee at Stafford for her husband's personall estate without further composicõn and for his lands and rents untill the Annunciacõn next. These are to charge and co<sup>m</sup>and you and every of you to forbear to plunder her house during the termes of her composicõn or take away any of her goods horses or cattell w<sup>th</sup>out her espetiall order, as you will answeare the contrary at your perill, and whereas the said Mrs. Lane hath compounded for her husband's quiet living at home, he promising that he will not wittingly or willingly doe anythinge directlye or indirectly against the Parliament. These are likewise to charge and co<sup>m</sup>and you and every of you quietly to permit and suffer him the said Mr. Lane to live and inhabite at Bently near Walsall without any your lett or molestacõn he observing his promise as aforesaid and carrying and behaving himself inoffensively to the Parliament. Given at Stafford this 7<sup>th</sup> of October 1645.

(Signed) Edw. Leigh.  
Phil. Jackson.  
Hen. Stone.  
Will. Bently.  
Jo. Simcox.

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Royalist Composition Papers, 2nd Series, Vol. 18, 713.

Thomas Lane of Bentley in the county of Stafford, Esq<sup>r</sup>.

His Delinquency that he deserted his own habitacõn and went and lived in the King's Garrison and there contynued untill September 1645 and whiles he lived there he voluntarily assisted those forces raised against the Parliament.

That he rendered himselfe to the Com<sup>tee</sup> of Stafford the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 1645 and made a Composicōn with them for his personall estate and tooke his lands to ffarme and had their proteccōn to live peacably at his owne howse without molestacōn of his person or goods, as by the same dated the 7th of October 1645 doth appear.

He hath taken the Nacoñall Couenant before Witt<sup>m</sup> Barton minister of John Zacharies the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1646 and the Negative Oath heere the same daye. He compounds upon a particuler delivered in under his hand by which he doth submitt to such ffine, etc., and by which it doth appear.

That he is seized of a ffranckten<sup>te</sup> for tearme of his own life only, the remainder to his wife for life, the rem<sup>r</sup> to John Lane his sonne and the heires males of his body (who hath compounded for the same revercōn with Com<sup>rs</sup> appointed by ordinance of Parliam<sup>t</sup> for that purpose with him and others as by their Certificate thereof dated 20<sup>th</sup> of August 1646 doth appeare) of and in the Manno<sup>r</sup> of Bently in the said County and of divers lands and Teñts to the same belonging of the yeerely value before theis troubles £146 17s. 4d.

That he is seized of a like Estate the remainder as aforesaid of and in certaine Messuages lands and Ten<sup>ts</sup> lyinge in Brinton and Stretton in the said County of the yeerely value before these troubles £15 2s. 0d.

He craves to be allowed £12 5s. 8d. soe much chardged upon his said lands for ever paid to the poore of the parishes of Wallsall and Willinshall in the said Countye, as by acquittances.

(Signed) D. Watkins.

18 Fbris 1646.

(Signed) Jero<sup>m</sup> Alexander.

fine at a sixt 225<sup>li</sup>.

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Royalist Composition Papers, 2nd Series, Vol. 18, 729.

Sçdo die Octobris 1646.

Thomas Lane of Bentley in the County of Staff<sup>s</sup>, Esq<sup>re</sup>, deposeth and saieth That he this Deponent and his auncestors have ever, tyme out of mynde, payd to the prebend of Willneh (all) for the tyth of Bentley aforesaid sixteene shillings and eight pence yerely for the same and also payd unto the kinge thirteene shillings and foure pence per añn for Rent for the said Manno<sup>r</sup> and five nobles to the poore of Willnall yerely all w<sup>ch</sup> said severall rents and soñes of money this deponent hath ever since his ffather's decease payd accordingly, And he also saieth that he payeth out of the said Manno<sup>r</sup> of Bentley tenn pounds yerely to the poore of the Parish of Walsall in the said Countye of Staff<sup>s</sup>. And he lastly saieth that all the said severall somes of money are charged upon the said Lo<sup>pp</sup> of Bentley to be payd by this Depon<sup>t</sup> his heires and assignes for ever.

(Signed) Thomas Lane.

Jurat. tercio Octobris 1646 }  
 (Signed) Rob<sup>t</sup> Aylott }

W<sup>m</sup> Salt Lib., Ms. 20, b. 4.

We have now reached the period of the Civil War, and part of the history of the Lanes which is especially interesting. The part played by the Lane family in the escape of the King is best gathered from the Boscobel tracts, which were collected and printed by Bohn in 1846 as an appendix to the *Memoirs of Count de Grammont*. These are contemporary accounts of the preservation of the King, and consist of—

1. An account of His Majesty's escape from Worcester dictated to Samuel Pepys by the King himself at Newmarket in October, 1680.
2. Boscobel ; or, the History of King Charles's most miraculous preservation after the battle of Worcester. By Mr. Thomas Blount. Part I ending with the departure of the King from Bentley, 10th September, 1651.
3. Part II, by the same, containing the rest of the King's adventures up to his arrival at the Louvre, in Paris, on the 30th October, 1651.

In his preface to the second part, Thomas Blount says :—

“The first part of this miraculous history I long since published, having the means to be well-informed in all circumstances relating to it, the scene, whereon those great actions were performed being my native country, and many of the actors my particular friends. I did not then intend to have provided farther, presuming some of those worthy persons of the west, who were the happy instruments in this second part, would have given us that so much desired supplement . . . , but finding in all this time nothing done, and the world more greedy of it than ever young ladies were to read the conclusion of an amorous strange romance after they had left the darling lover plunged into some dire misfortune, I have thus endeavoured to complete the history.”

It will be seen by the above quotation that the first part of the history of the King's escape is very much more authentic than the second. With respect to the identity of the author he states that amongst the gentry who obeyed the King's summons to assemble at Pitchcroft, near Worcester, on the 26th August, 1651, was Sir Walter Blount, of Sodington ; Mr. Robert Blount, of Kenswick ;

Mr. Peter Blount, and Mr. Edward Blount. The last two appear to have been sons of Sir Walter Blount ; it is probable that the author was one of the Blounts of Blount's Hall, near Uttoxeter.<sup>1</sup>

The battle was fought on the 3rd of September. When all was lost and the royal army was retiring in disorder, the King put off his armour in the Friars Street of the city and took a fresh horse. He left the city by St. Martin's Gate about 6 p.m. with the main body of the horse under General Leslie, intending to march with all speed to Scotland.

On Kinver Heath, when daylight was gone, the whole party had lost their way, and the King called a halt and consulted with the Duke of Buckingham, the Earl of Derby, Lord Wilmot, and others as to what place they might go and obtain some needed rest. The Earl of Derby informed the King that in his flight from Wigan to Worcester<sup>2</sup> he had met with a perfectly honest man and a great convenience of concealment at Boscobel House, and the King was therefore inclined to go there ; Lord Talbot being made acquainted with the King's resolve, "called for Mr. Charles Giffard, of the ancient family of Chillington, to be his guide, which offer Mr. Giffard willingly undertook, having one Yates, a servant, with him very expert in the ways of that country."

The party, which now consisted of about sixty horse, passed through Stourbridge, and avoiding Wolverhampton must have turned off the main road somewhere about Himley, and passed by the narrow lanes through Trysull, Seisdon, and Wrottesley with a view of avoiding observation as they neared their destination. The original intention had been to convey the King back to Boscobel, but Charles Giffard suggested that the party should proceed in the first instance to Whiteladies, and there is no doubt

<sup>1</sup> See the fine levied in 22 James I. between Henry Blount and Sir Thomas Blount respecting the manor of Blount's Hall.—*Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. X, part 1, New Ser., p. 53.

<sup>2</sup> "The Earl with his forces newly raised for the King had been defeated by Colonel Lilburne at Wigan on August the 25th, but had escaped and had been taken by Mr. Richard Sneyd to Boscobel, a house which had been built by Mr. John Giffard with a hiding place for a priest. The Earl arrived at Boscobel on August 29th, the only inhabitants in the house being William Penderel and his wife, who kept him in safety for two days and nights."—  
BLOUNT.

this resolution served the King, for it would have been impossible to conceal the arrival of a party of 60 horse at Boscobel.

Whiteladies was the property of the same John Giffard who had built Boscobel, and was now inhabited by his widow and a married daughter, Mrs. Cotton. George Penderel, a brother of William Penderel, was a servant in the house and opened the doors. At this time it was break of day on the Thursday morning. The King being attired in a suit of clothes belonging to Richard Penderel, another brother, was taken out by a back door by Richard to an adjacent wood called Spring Coppice, about half a mile from Whiteladies.

The King remained in Spring Coppice during the daylight, food being brought to him by the wife of Francis Yates, who was sister to the wife of Richard Penderel. After dark he was conducted to Richard's house at Hobbal Grange, whence he proceeded on foot, guided by Richard, to Mr. Wolff's house at Madeley on the Severn, where they arrived about midnight. Here the King for greater security was concealed in a hayloft all the following day. This would be Friday, the 6th of September.

During the King's stay in the barn Mr. Wolff had discovered that all the bridges and fords over the Severn were strictly guarded, and he recommended the King to return to Boscobel as the safest place for concealment in all the country. The King therefore, guided by Richard Penderel, left Madeley at 11 p.m. and arrived at Boscobel at 3 a.m. on Saturday morning. At Boscobel they found Colonel William Carlis, who had likewise made his escape after the battle.

After the King had been refreshed in the house the Colonel persuaded the King to remain in the wood during the daytime, as he considered it safer than the house, and they made choice of a thick-leaved pollard oak<sup>1</sup> for the purpose. In this oak they continued most part of the Saturday. In the evening they returned to the house, when William Penderel, the caretaker, showed the King the secret place in which the Earl of Derby had been secured and in which the King laid that night.

<sup>1</sup> If the upper part of an old oak is pollarded a very thick mass of fresh foliage springs from the upper edge of the stem, and thus forms a complete screen round the upper part of the tree.

Sunday was spent by the King in an arbour in an artificial mound in the garden of Boscobel.

In the meantime John Penderel had reported that Lord Wilmot was at Mr. Whitgreave's house at Moseley, he was therefore sent back with a message that the King would join Lord Wilmot that night. When John arrived at Moseley he was informed that Lord Wilmot had left the house, and he then acquainted Mr. Whitgreave that the King had returned to Boscobel and the straits to which he was put. Upon receiving this information, Mr. Whitgreave and Huddleston (a priest resident in the house) proceeded to Bentley (Mr. Lane's house), to which place Lord Wilmot had removed, taking John Penderell with them.

Lord Wilmot was one of the King's suite who had been at Whiteladies, and he had left that place taking John Penderell as his guide. After several narrow escapes from parties of the enemy, John had committed the care of Lord Wilmot to a neighbour, William Walker, who took him to Mr. Huntbache's house at Brinsford, whilst John Penderell was scouting abroad to discover means of escape for him. Whilst employed in this way he met Mr. John Huddleston, the Catholic priest, to whom he recounted the news of the defeat of the King's army and the straits and confusion he had left the King and his suite at Whiteladies, and that one of them, a person of quality, was at that time at Mr. Huntbache's house close by. On receiving this information Huddleston then returned as quickly as possible to Mr. Whitgreave's house, taking John Penderell with him, and acquainted Mr. Whitgreave with the matter. Mr. Whitgreave then repaired to Huntbache's house, and gave directions that Lord Wilmot should be privately conveyed after dark to his house at Moseley.

As soon as it was day Mr. Whitgreave sent Lord Wilmot's horses to his neighbour, Colonel John Lane of Bentley, near Walsall, south-east from Moseley, about four miles<sup>1</sup> with a

<sup>1</sup> This is Blount's account, but Bentley is quite eight miles from Moseley, and Colonel Lane lived at the Hide near Brewood, which was not more than four miles off. The horses were doubtless sent to the Hide. Colonel Lane had not been at the fight at Worcester, and was therefore free from liability to arrest.

message to the Colonel that they belonged to some eminent person about the King whom he could better receive than the horses. Colonel Lane willingly received the horses, and proceeded to Moseley on Friday night and informed Lord Wilmot that his sister, Miss Jane Lane, had procured a pass from one of the enemy's commanding officers for herself and a man to go a little beyond Bristol to see Mrs. Norton, a special friend, then near her time of lying in, and offered the pass to Lord Wilmot if he thought fit to make use of it. As the latter seemed inclined to accept this offer he was conducted by Colonel Lane to Bentley.

John Penderel returned to Boscobel in the afternoon of Sunday, and the King being mounted on Humphrey Penderell's mill horse was conducted about midnight through bye-ways for better security to Mr. Whitgreave's house, which was about five miles distant from Boscobel. It was now break of day on the Monday morning of the 8th September, and the King was put into one of the secret hiding places in Mr. Whitgreave's house.

On the Monday afternoon soldiers arrived at Moseley with the intention of apprehending Mr. Whitgreave upon information that he had been at the Worcester fight; the King, who had left the priests hole, was lying down in Huddlestons's bed. He was thereupon conducted again to his secret hiding place, whilst Mr. Whitgreave went boldly to the soldiers, assuring them that he had not left his home for the past fortnight. With this assurance, and the testimony of some of his neighbours, the soldiers were satisfied, and left the house without searching it. This seems to have been one of the most critical moments of the King's escape.

The Parliamentarians had heard of the King's arrival at Whiteladies, and that place had been searched several times. Boscobel had escaped a search, as it was reported to be occupied by servants only.

The foregoing circumstantial account of the King's adventures, which is taken from Blount's narrative, explains how the Lane family came to be connected with the King's escape. On the evening of Tuesday, September 9th, Colonel Lane arrived at Moseley, and in the early morning of the 10th con-



ducted the King to Bentley, where he was taken by the back stairs to an upper chamber and securely lodged.<sup>1</sup>

Lord Clarendon, in his history of the rebellion, gives the following account of the King's preservation at this period:—

“Lord Wilmot told the King he had by very good fortune fallen into the house of an honest gentleman, one Mr. Lane, a person of an excellent reputation for his fidelity to the King, but of so universal and general a good name, though he had a son who had been a Colonel in the King's service during the late war, and was then upon his way with men to Worcester the very day of the defeat, men of all affections in the country and of all opinions paid the old man a very great respect. That he had been very civilly treated there, and that the old gentleman had used some diligence to find out where the King was, that he might get him to his house, where he was sure he could conceal him till he might contrive a full deliverance. He told him he had withdrawn from that house and put himself amongst the Catholics in hope he might discover where his Majesty was, and having now happily found him, advised him to repair to that house, which stood not near any other house.

“The King enquired of the monk (Mr. Huddleston) of this gentleman, who told him he was a gentleman of a fair estate, exceedingly beloved, and the oldest Justice of the Peace in the county of Stafford, and though he was a very zealous Protestant, yet he lived with so much civility and candour towards the Catholics, that they would all trust him as much as they would do any of their own profession, and that he would not think of any place of so good repose and security for his Majesty to repair to . . . and so they two (Lord Wilmot and the King) went together to Mr. Lane's house, where the King found he was welcome, and conveniently accommodated in such places as in a large house had been provided to conceal the presence of malignants or to preserve goods of value. This took place on the 9th September.”<sup>2</sup>

On this day, viz., the 9th of September, Parliament issued

<sup>1</sup> *Lanes of Bentley*, by Henry Murray Lane, Chester Herald.

<sup>2</sup> *Clarendon's History of the Rebellion*, Vol. V, p. 199, edited by Macray, 1888.

a proclamation for the discovery and apprehension of the King, with a promise of £1,000 to whosoever should apprehend him, and with orders that no person should be allowed to pass beyond the sea without special licence. The price set upon the King's head would represent about £5,000 at the present day.

On Tuesday night, the 9th of September, after it was dark, Colonel Lane proceeded to Moseley and met Mr. Whitgreave at a place previously agreed upon in an orchard near the house. Mr. Whitgreave having acquainted the King with the arrival of the Colonel and his horses, the King joined him in the orchard and was safely conducted to Bentley. It will be observed how throughout the early part of the King's flight the precaution was observed of never taking a cavalcade of horses and men to any house in which the King was lodged; without this precaution it would have been impossible to have concealed the King's movements from the observation of servants.

At break of day on the Wednesday morning, the King being previously attired in a grey holiday suit of a farmer's son, and representing a tenant's son of the Lanes of the name of Will Jackson, was made to ride before Mrs. (Miss) Jane Lane as her attendant, Mr. Henry Lassells, who was a kinsman of the Lanes and had been a Cornet in Colonel Lane's troop during the late war, and Mr. John Petre of Horton, and his wife, the Colonel's sister, riding in the same company. The first day's journey was made to the house of a Mr. Tombs at Long Marston in Warwickshire, about three miles beyond Stratford-upon-Avon, where the party was accommodated for the night.

On the following day, which would be Thursday, the 11th of September, the party rode by Camden to Cirencester, about 24 miles, and slept at an inn at the latter town.

On the Friday they rode by way of Sudbury, and passing through Bristol arrived the same evening at Mr. Norton's house at Leigh, about three miles from Bristol. On this day they completed 30 miles.

At Leigh the King remained four days, and it was during his stay there that he was recognised by Mrs. Norton's butler, John Pope, who had served at Lichfield under Colonel Bagot. After conferring with the King it was thought best to acknow-

ledge his identity, and the butler, after kissing the King's hand, remained loyal and trustworthy.

On Tuesday, September the 16th, the party started for Trent, the house of Colonel Francis Wyndham, upon the borders of Somersetshire and Dorsetshire, with a view of taking shipping from Lyme or some other town on the south coast, but they lay that night at Mr. Edward Kirton's house at Castle Cary, near Burton. On the following day they arrived at Colonel Wyndham's house, which was about 26 miles from Leigh. Here Mrs. Jane Lane took leave of the King and returned with Mr. Lassells into Staffordshire.

The King, after many other adventures, eventually procured a ship through the instrumentality of Colonel George Gunter of Rackton, near Chichester, and of Mr. Francis Mansel, a merchant of the same place. He embarked at Brighton on the 15th of October and landed at Fécamp in Normandy on the following day.

The news of the King's escape soon got abroad, and the fact that he had ridden in the disguise of a man-servant to a lady actually got into print within a month of the King's arrival in Paris.<sup>1</sup> It was considered advisable, therefore, to remove Jane Lane to France, and accompanied by her brother, Colonel Lane, they made their way on foot disguised as peasants to Yarmouth, where they took ship for the Continent in December.

On their arrival in France they threw off their disguise and posted to Paris, having sent a courier in advance to apprise the King of their approach. Charles came from Paris to meet them, accompanied by Henrietta Maria, the Queen mother, and the Dukes of York and Gloucester. The King gallantly saluted Jane Lane on the cheek, called her his "life," and bade her welcome to Paris. After a short stay in Paris, Jane entered the service of the Princess of Orange, whom she attended to Cologne in 1654, and to Frankfort in 1655.

At the Restoration, the House of Commons voted her £1,000 to buy herself a jewel, and by Letters Patent of 5th February, 13 Charles II. (1661), she was granted an annuity for life of £1,000 for "services to the King after the battle of Worcester." Jane Lane married after the Restoration Sir

<sup>1</sup> *Dictionary of National Biography*, under Jane Lane.

Clement Fisher, Bart., of Packington Magna, Warwickshire, whom she survived, dying without issue on the 9th of September, 1689. The assistance so bravely rendered by her to Charles II. is one of the historical incidents selected for the frescoes in the lobby of the House of Commons.<sup>1</sup>

After safely depositing his sister in Paris, Colonel Lane returned to England, where he found himself included amongst the royalists proscribed by Parliament in 1652. Both he and his father were in prison in June 1652. As appears by the following letter from the King to Jane Lane:—

1652. The last of June.

Mrs. Lane,—I did not thinke I should ever have begun a letter to you in chiding, but you give so just cause by telling me you feare you are wearing out of my memory that I cannot chuse but tell you I take it very unkindly that after the obligations I have to you, 'tis possible for you to suspect I can ever be so wanting to myselfe as not to remember them on all occasions to your advantage, which I assure you I shall, and hope before it be long I shall have it in my power to give you those testimonyes of my kindness to you which I desire. I am very sorry to hear that your father and brother are in prison, but I hope 'tis upon no other score than the general clapping of all persons who wish me well, and I am the more sorry for it, now it hath hindered you from coming along with my sister, that I might have assured you myself how truly I am,

Your most affectionate friend,

CHARLES R.

For Mrs. Lane.

The King's march from Scotland to Worcester had furnished an excuse for a new proscription, and this had involved both father and son. This is the latest notice I have discovered of Thomas Lane, but he survived to see the restoration of the King. He died in 1660, aged 75, and was buried at Wolverhampton on the 13th June. By his wife Ann, daughter of Walter Bagot of Blithfield, he had issue:—

1. John, a Colonel in the Royal Army, born in May, 1611.
2. Walter, born May, 1611.
3. William Lane of Shelton, born 1625, who settled in Ireland, was the ancestor of the Lanes of co. Tipperary.

<sup>1</sup> *Dictionary of National Biography*, under Jane Lane.

4. Richard, a Groom of the Bedchamber.
1. Jane married Sir Clement Fisher of Packington, co. Warwick.
2. Anne married Edward Birch of Leacroft, co. Stafford.
3. Elizabeth.
4. Withy married John Petre, Esq., of Horton, co. Bucks.
5. Mary, born 1619, married Edward Nicholas of Winterbourne, co. Wilts, son of Sir Oliver Nicholas. She died December, 1686.

COLONEL JOHN LANE, A.D. 1660-1667.

With the restoration of Charles II. we lose the benefit of the Inquisitions post-mortem, for the King consented to accept a fixed annual income from the excise in place of casual profits of the Court of Wards. The date of the birth of this famous member of the family, however, is inscribed on his monument at Wolverhampton and took place in 1609. At the commencement of the Civil War he is stated to have been placed in the command of the garrison of Stafford, but either from the weakness of the garrison or the disaffection of the townspeople it fell early into the possession of the Parliamentarians. This must have been a severe blow to the royal cause, for the place could have been rendered very strong owing to the inundations which surround the town, and its situation commands all the most important communications of the county. The loss of Stafford is one of the many examples of the inept military policy of the King's party, for whilst a town of this importance was allowed to fall into the hands of the enemy through the weakness of the garrison, the King's forces were disseminated and frittered away in a number of small garrisons all over the county, many of which were places of no military importance whatever. This arose from the selfishness of the landed proprietors, who were intent on protecting their estates from forced requisitions or the plunders of marauders. The Wrottesley Composition papers show that the Royalists had fortified military posts at twelve places in the south of the county, viz., Chillington, Brewood Church, Wrottesley, Lapley, Lichfield, Rushall, Wolverhampton,

at the Church, and at Leveson's Hall, Dudley Castle, Patshull, Lilleshull and Tong.

In 1644 Colonel Lane was in command of the Rushall garrison, a small post commanding the high road between Lichfield and Walsall. It must have been a thorn in the side of the Parliamentarians. Lord Denbigh suddenly swept down upon it and took it after a siege of three days only. Some blame was cast upon the Governor for the early surrender of the place, which will be seen from the following report by Lord Denbigh that a breach had been made in the walls which would admit eight men abreast, and the complaint probably proceeded from the commanders of forces which had been dilatory in taking the necessary steps for the relief of the garrison, and wished to throw the blame of the surrender off their own shoulders :—

The 24<sup>th</sup> of May I received newes from Wem and Namptwich that Prince Rupert's forces and the Marquesse of Newcastle's were not farr from their appoynted rendevouze, where they went to unite, and that they were 7,000 in all, some reported more, but the relation from their owne soldiers that left them the day before, and came voluntarily to us, confirmed the reporte of Wem and Namptwich. Upon the same day the Mayor, and divers other honest men of Newcastle, came and informed mee that some of y<sup>e</sup> enemyes men were plundering of their towne, wherupon I presently gave orders for all my horse to march to Stone and a good party thence forthwith to goe and beate upp their quarters at Newcastle. And I gave the like orders for my foote to march to Ecclesall Castle to make good the retreat, being resolved that if the Lancashire gentlemen would joyne with mee, according to those letters I lately sent to the same purpose, I would gett together all the strength I could and fall upon y<sup>e</sup> enemy in the reare ; but the same night came to mee a messenger from Lancashire and a letter expressing that their occasions in their owne cuntrey were so pressing that they could not joyne with mee, whereupon I summoned a councell of warr, and their result was that in respect I was disable by the want of those forces that should have joyned with mee I was not able to deale with the enemy, they being at the same time past Wem and Namptwich, and they in Wem able to looke abroad and get provisions, I would attempt Colonell Leighs house, a strong garrison in Staffordshire called Rushell hall, and in the possession of Colonel Lane, governour ; a place much considerable (if gayned) for trade from Cheshire, Staffordshire, and other parts, wherupon I made preparation for my march and sett forth out of Stafford for this place the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, and tooke alonge with me two drakes, two sakers, and y<sup>e</sup> Stafford great peece,

and amunicion proporcionable, my owne regiment of horse consisting of twelve coloures but more troopes then coloures in regard they are newly raised, Stafford horse, and Sir Thomas Middletons foure troopes, my owne regiment of foote, and Stafford regiment, and marched to Kanke to our rendezvouze some 6 miles of, where Sir Thomas Middletons and Sir William Middletons regimentes of foote should have mett mee both consisting of 400, but they would not obey my orders, but fell into their old course of mutinye ; from thence I marched that night to Blocksidge, and there made a halte, being within two miles of Rushell-hall and sent out all my horse to surround the house, comanded by Colonell Rugeley and my major, and by breake of day marched with the rest of my forces and cannon thither, being the 26<sup>th</sup> day, which day was spent in exchanging small shott, and viewing of the ground for a battery, and there quartered both horse and foote rounde the house. The 26<sup>th</sup> being Sondag wee spent our tyme according to the duty of y<sup>e</sup> day in Walsall towne where I quartered my selfe, but in our duty in the latter part of the day wee were prevented by an alarum by y<sup>e</sup> relacion of a woman being taken runinge out of the house by one of captaine Kems troope (who had the guard that day) who was sent to Lichfield to importune Colonell Baggott to send to Generall Hastings to come and joyne their forces to raise the siege, which tooke up the day in debate for preparacion to oppose them and all the time our foote contynued firing upon the enemy, and all the night with smalle shotte.

Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> wee sent out parties of horse to gett in provisions for the foote and for themselves, which was verie scarce to be found in this place, in respect of the malignancy of the people round about, that few or none brought in any thinge but by force, which day was spent in makinge of blindes and providing planks to make a platforme for the battery and getting of faggottes and scaling ladders and all other necessaries fitting an assault when the battery should be made, and that night planted the ordnance upon the battery made by the assistance and direction of Captain Arundel who in the action was shott in the foote by which disaster the busines was much retarded and I [was] forget most of the night to be up in the trenches with the soldiers to cause the worke to be finished.

The 28<sup>th</sup> being Tuesday I received informations from the comittee of Stafford that my Lord of Loughborough, Sneades and Gorringes troopes consisting of some 200 horse and some foot were cominge to Lichfield wherupon I sent out a partie of horse out of my owne regiment, comanded by my major, to gaine what intelligence they could from those partes, and being marched to Broadoake sent out a forlorne hope of 40 to make a discoverie of the enemy, but seeing none went to Lichfield where they found some horse of the enemyes at grasse and brought them away, upon which the enemy sallyed out and ours retreated to the bodie a mile distant, and the scoutes brought newes of ye approach of a great bodie of their horse whereupon our horse retreated to a hill about a mile off and there faced their bodie being farr more in number than ours, and sent out a forlorne hope againe comanded by Captain Tovey my captain lieutenant, by which

tyme the newes was brought to mee, that y<sup>e</sup> forlorne hopes were engaged, and in the skirmish was taken a lieutenant of horse of Generall Hastings called Graves, and 9 or 10 common troopers, and eight of theirs killed, and many wounded, they killed two of ours and sleightly wounded 3 or 4 and took two common troopers. By this tyme I had drawn upp Staffordes horse, and Sir Thomas Middletons to myne, which the enemy perceiving facet about and retreated ; and I with my horse remayned there some two houres to see what the enemy would doe but they marched cleane away, and passinge through lanes neare Lichfield where they had the conveniency of lynng the hedges with musquettiers, wee thought fitt to repaire to our quarters, and to the watch soe the rest of y<sup>e</sup> day and night was spent in compleating of the battery ; and the next morninge early our cannon playd upon them untill 9 of the clocke, and then I sounded a parley, and sent them a summons to surrendour up y<sup>e</sup> house which would prevent the shedding of much blood, and if they yeilded upon that summons they should have faire quarter ; but the Governour returned this answere, that he had orders to keepe it for his sacred Majesty, and therefore if I desire to prevent the shedding of blood I must depart for he would maintayne his Majestes comandes to the losse of his dearest blood ; upon which answere I gave orders to y<sup>e</sup> gunners to give fire and presently made a great breach in y<sup>e</sup> wall, that eight might go abrest, and thus we plyed them untill 4 of the clocke, firing both upon their workes and their garrison in the church, which was kept by Captain Gravener, and soe stronge by relacion, and the takinge of it by assault less feazable then the house, wherupon I gave order to make a tryall whether it would be battered, and by the advice and assistance of Colonell Stepkins, turned the mouth of the cannon against the steeple, who gave fire to it and shott down the battlementes thereof and made it too hott for them that were within ; and by the advice of the councill of warr resolved to storne it, and the house that night, and assigned every one his action which was most cheerfully received by all the officers and soldiers.

And whiles wee were preparing for it they sounded a parley and required hostages, which I consented unto, and dispatched Captain Tuthill to them and they Captaine Dibdall, and I sent Colonel Rugeley, Lieut. Colonel Roper and Quartermaster Generall Kem to parley with Col. Lane, Captain Dibdall, and Captain Gravener, and upon their notion I added Colonell Booth (who came the same day to mee from Namptwich) and they added Captain Spooner, but they could not conclude, but differed upon tearmes, and soe all returned to their quarters. And in the tyme of their parley wee viewed their workes, which were as good as most in y<sup>e</sup> kingdome, and not to be stormed but with the losse of many mens lives, by the relacion of all those that saw them, which drew from me better condicions then were offered at first, and after longe disputes y<sup>e</sup> Governour rendred up the house upon our mutuall signing the inclosed articles which I was content to give to save the effasion of blood, which the strength of the workes would have in all probability plentiffully drawne from my men.



[Endorsed.]

A relation of all passages at the taking of Rushell hall.

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[STATE PAPERS, DOMESTIC, CHARLES I., Vol. 501, No. 145, I.]

Articles agreed upon betweene the Right Hono<sup>ble</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Earle of Denbigh and Colonell John Lane upon the surrendour of the garrison of Rushell hall for y<sup>e</sup> service of the Kinge and Parliament the 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1644.

1. That y<sup>e</sup> sayd Colonell, march out of y<sup>e</sup> sayd garrison with all the soldiers therein, without any armes or amunition (only the Governour, officers, and gentlemen being twentie in number whoe are allowed to march each with one horse, sword, and pistolls) by seaven of y<sup>e</sup> clocke this night.
2. That y<sup>e</sup> Governour and soldiers have a convoy to Lichfield, and the convoy to returne safe to Walsall.
3. That y<sup>e</sup> Governour and gentlemen have two wagons allowed them to carry their goodes and apparrell.
4. That y<sup>e</sup> Governour have two horses allowed him for his servantes and foure horses for the comandours and gentlemen.

(Signed) John Lane.

A list of those things wee tooke in the house.

1 drake, 100 muskettes, 20 fowlinge peeces, 6 pair of pistolles, 113 rolls of tobacco, 1 barrell of cutt tobacco.

[Endorsed.]

Articles for the surrendering up of Rushell hall.

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Colonel John Lane next occurs amongst the officers of the garrison of Ashby de la Zouch, which surrendered to the Parliament in February, 1645-46, and who were allowed to compound for their delinquency. The Royal Composition Papers of the above date gives—

A List of the names of such Gentlemen who were in the Garrison at Ashby de la Zouche at y<sup>e</sup> Surrender thereof and have compounded for their Delinquencies with S<sup>r</sup> Richard Skevington and Collonel John Needham according to an order of the House of Co<sup>m</sup>mons of the 24<sup>th</sup> of Febr. 1645.  
Colonell John Lane of Bentley in the County of Stafford.

He is seised of an estate in fee to him and his heires  
lyeing in the Par<sup>sh</sup> of Brude in the said County of the  
yearly value of     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...

£   s.   d.

90 00 00

0

	£	s.	d.
And of an Estate in Riversōn after y <sup>e</sup> Death of his father of the Demeasnes and Lordship of Bentley aforeſd of the yearly value of ... ..	146	00	00
And of an Estate in Riversōn to him and his heires of and in lands in Brington and Stretton in the said County of Stafford of the yearly value of ... ..	15	00	00
but of wh <sup>h</sup> issues yearly for ever to the poor of Walsall 10 <sup>l</sup> .			
w <sup>ch</sup> (with the fifth part) being allowed leaves the fine at a tenth ... ..	252	16	00

Rests unpaid of this fine, £112 16s.

According to an Order of the High Court of Parliament beareing Date the 24<sup>th</sup> day of February last past power is given unto S<sup>r</sup> Richard Skeffington, Knight, and Colonell John Needham, Gov<sup>r</sup> of Leicester, to compound with such Knights, Esq<sup>res</sup> and Gent. as are mencōned in a list annexed unto certaine articles of agreem<sup>t</sup> for y<sup>e</sup> slighting of Ash garrison, and whereas the said S<sup>r</sup> Richard Skeffington and Collonell Needham having treated with persons mencōned in y<sup>e</sup> said list whose names are hereunder written concerning their severall composicons for clearing their severall Delinquencyes Have agreed that the said Knights, Esq<sup>rs</sup> and Gent shall sett and dispose of their severall Estates to the best profit of those (to) whome it doth or shall of right belong untill the compleating of their severall composicōns. These are therefore to desire y<sup>e</sup> severall Committies of y<sup>e</sup> severall counties of Leicester Derby Nottingham Staffs Rutland Lincolne Huntington Kent and Warwicke and their agents to forbear to take and receive any rents profitts and comodities of any lands w<sup>ch</sup> in the said Counties of any of the said persons since the 25<sup>th</sup> Day of this instant March untill further satisfacōn from us.

(Signed) R. Skeffington.  
Jo. Needham.

xxvii<sup>o</sup> Marcij 1646.

S<sup>r</sup> John Repington Kn<sup>t</sup>.

S<sup>r</sup> John Bale K<sup>t</sup>.

S<sup>r</sup> Ensaby Velsam K<sup>t</sup>.

George Halford Esq<sup>re</sup>.

Colonell John Lane

and divers other Gentlemen.

These are to certify all those whom it may concerne that Colonell John Laine, son and heire apparent of Thomas Laine of Bentley in the Countie of Stafford, Esq<sup>re</sup>, beinge an officer of Ashbie de la Zouch garrison accordinge to the articles agreed upon the rendecōn thereof to the power of Parliament and according to an ordinance of parliament in that behalfe hath compounded with us S<sup>r</sup> Richard Skeffington Kn<sup>t</sup>. and Colonell John Needham for his Delinquency, and in the perticuler of his Estate hath compounded

for the revercōn after his father's decease for the Lordship of Bentlie and of certaine other landes in Brinton and Stretton for w<sup>ch</sup> he hath paid.

(Signed) R. Skeffington,  
John Needham.

Dated the 20<sup>th</sup> August 1646.

In 1659, at the period of the dissensions between the Parliament and the Army, the Royalists seized the opportunity for a rising, Sir George Booth and Sir Thomas Middleton appeared in arms and surprised Chester early in August. In consequence of these events, the Council of State took measures to secure the persons of all those who were suspected of disaffection to the Commonwealth. The Royalists were defeated by Lambert at Nantwich on August 19th, and on September 19th there is an Order in Council that a number of gentlemen of co. Stafford who had been secured in safe custody should be liberated on bail to the amount of the sums placed against their names, or their finding two sureties. Amongst the prisoners occurs the name of Colonel John Lane, who had to find sureties to the amount of £4,000, which is the largest sum mentioned in the order.<sup>1</sup>

After the restoration of the King, which took place in the following year, there is no record of any reward, either in money or lands or in the shape of a title, for Colonel Lane. It is probable, however, that he received the command of one of the newly raised regiments, for his monument at St. Peter's Church, Wolverhampton, states he served against the Dutch. This must have been in 1665. In 1661 he sat in Parliament for Lichfield, and in 1667 he died.<sup>2</sup> A monument was set up for him in the Lane Chapel of St. Peter's Church, Wolverhampton, with the following turgid inscription, according to the fashion of the day :—

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XI, New Series, p. 101, and *State Papers Domestic*, 1659.

<sup>2</sup> Monument in St. Peter's Church, Wolverhampton.

Mortales exivioe  
 provalidi Johannis Lane armigeri  
 feliciter reanimari expectantes  
 hic repositoe  
 vir super titulos vel cujus meritis  
 tituli desunt  
 In turbis nuperis intestinis sub Rege Car. I.  
 et deinde in bello Batavo sub Rege Car. II.  
 tribuni militum dignissime officio fungebatur  
 Regis et Patrioe Liberator  
 nempe cum Carole II e proeliis Vigorniis  
 oegerrime elapsus et undique insectatum  
 summa pietate summa fide summa virtute  
 ultimo denique capitis periculo.  
 iniquis tyranni usurpantis et suorum insidiis  
 fortiter eripuit factum inter proeclarissima proeclarissimum  
 Ut ipse monarcha etiam non tacite agnovit  
 cum augmentatione regali ex insigniis Regiis  
 ad insignia antiqua nobilis Lane familie  
 filium Thom. Lane ar. digni patris dignus hoeres  
 in loco defuncti decoravit et retribuit  
 Cujus ossa insuper Rex gratus et pius in  
 mausoleis Basilicis Westmonast.  
 amoris ergo magnifice condi voluit  
 ni ipse Heros morius istis honoribus modeste  
 obstetisset  
 Natus est viii Kal. aprilis a<sup>o</sup> MDCIX  
 et pridie Cal. Septem. a<sup>o</sup> MDCLXXVII  
 mortem obiit comploratam.

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PATENT ROLLS, 29 CHARLES II., PART 8, NO. 2.

Coñ pencõis. Charles the second etc. to the High Treãr of England  
 Thome Lane. ãr. Coñs of the Treãry Chancellor Undertreãr Chamber-  
 lains and Barons of the Exchequer and to all other  
 officers and ministers of the said Exchequer and of the Receipt there now  
 and for the time being, greeting, know yee that Wee calling to minde the  
 great and signall service pformed to us by John Lane of Bentley in the  
 County of Stafford Esq<sup>re</sup> decẽd in his ready concurring to the p̃servacõn of  
 our Royal person after the Battle of Worcester have therefore of our free  
 Will and meer mocõn given and granted and by these p̃sents for us our  
 heires and successors doe give and grant unto our trustie and welbeloved  
 Thomas Lane Esq<sup>re</sup> sonne of the said John Lane one anuity or yeerly  
 pencõn of five hundred pounds of lawfull mony of England to have hold and





yeerly to receive and enjoy the said anuity or yeerly pencōn of five hundred pounds to the said Thomas Lane and his assignes out of the Treasure from tyme to time being in the Receipt of the Exchequer of us our heires or successors during the nřall life of him the said Thomas Lane by the hands of the High Treasurer of England or Coĩns of the Treařy Chancellor Undertreār Chamberlains Barons and other the officers and ministers of the said Exchequer and of the Receipt there now and for the tyme being att the four usuall Feasts or Termes in the yeare that is to say att the Feasts of the Nativity of St. John Baptist St. Michaell the Archangell the Nativity of our Lord Christ and the Annunciacōn of the blessed Virgin Mary by even and equall porcōns the first payment thereof to comence from the Feast of thanunciacōn of the blessed Virgin Mary now last past wherefore Wee doe by these řsents for us our heires and successors authorise require and comand the high Treasurer of England Coĩns of the Treasury Chancellor Undertreařr Chamblains and Barons of the Exchequer of us our heires and successors and all other officers and ministers of the said Court of Exchequer and the Receipt there now and for the time being to whom itt shall apperteyne will and truely to pay or cause to be paid unto the said Thomas Lane or his assignes the said anuity or yeerly pencōn of five hundred pounds from the tyme and in the manner aforesaid and for their or any of their soe doing these our letters Patents or the enrollment or exemplificacōn thereof shall be unto them and every of them respectively a good and sufficient warrant and discharge any order direccōn comand restriaōn or other matter or thing whatsoever to the contrary thereof in any wise not withstanding In witnes etc. T. R. apud Westm. decimo septimo die Sept.

p bre de privato sigillo.

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## RE THE PARTRIDGE FAMILY.

The following note was amongst General Wrottesley's papers. It may have been dealt with by him, or he may have been too unwell to reply or to correct the account given above; it is therefore inserted as it stands.

I note that you say that the Lanes now possess the Manor of King's Bromley by the marriage of a Lane with the heiress of the Partridges, so I shall of course assume Pitt's account in his *History of Staffordshire*, p. 68, is incorrect.

He says that in 6.Ed. IV. it was *sold* by Corbet to Wm. Praers, whose sister Alice eventually became his heiress and married a Partridge. He adds hat on 2nd May, 1569, Ed. Partridge *sold* this manor to Agard for £1,240

(*cf.* xiii, p. 299). Then he asserts that between 1670 and 1680 it was sold by the Agards to the Newton family, and finally that it was left by Sarah Newton in 1794 to her cousins the Lanes.

I see that Harwood's *Erdeswick* also gives the same account of the descent of this manor.

I see in Burke that about the middle of the XVIth century a Lane is said to have married Margaret, daughter and heiress of Thos. Partridge, but I cannot see that the Lanes claimed to be Lords of this Manor until the end of the XVIIIth century.

Please excuse my drawing your attention to these statements, but, as you know, a slip is sometimes made even by the most learned of men, so I think it better to draw your attention to them before inserting your note.

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BENTLEY, HIDE, ETC.

S.D. A Deed from Roger, the son of Gervase of Bentley, to Roger his sonne and his heyres of all Bentley with y<sup>e</sup> custody of y<sup>e</sup> Hay of Bentley w<sup>th</sup> its appurtenances, except the land of Richard the sonne of Simon, and of Robert the son of Jeffrey, and the land of Hyndebadeshull, and the land of Hutcheberge, and the balywick of Wolverhampton w<sup>ch</sup> he did keep for his use for his life, test. Will. filio Edonis, Willo Ruffo et aliis.

S.D. A Deed from Roger of Bentley to Gervase a sonne of Widon or Darlaston in franck marriage w<sup>th</sup> Alice his sister, of a message w<sup>ch</sup> Jeffrey Smith held in Bentley, & of one assart, viz., betw. the village and the Millhurst, and of certaine acres of Land in Wateley nere the way, and the moore nere Wetrudig, and the meadow within Aldemulnedick, to be held of the sayd Roger and his heyres, by the heyres proceeding from the sayd Alice paying 12*d.* p. ann. for all secular services, etc., test. Willo de Darlaston et a<sup>ls</sup>.

S.D. A Deed from Thomas, Lord of Derla weston to William de Bentley, of all the watercourse betw. Derlaston & Bentley, to make a mill upon his land, & a mill pound upon the land of the sd. Thomas Darlaston, & to take of his earth as much and as oft as there shall be need to make and amend the sd. poole without his enclosure, & also he grants him liberty to turn the said watercourse, wheresoever he will between the mill and the place where the two watercourses meet together, one of wh<sup>ch</sup> is called Hinde broc & the other Wilnhal broc, paying yearly for all services and demands, 6*d.* at Midsom̄er exc. see the originall, test. dno Robo de Essington—dño Willo de Heronvile, dño Hugone de Boeles, Rob. de Bissopbury, Rob. de Pendeford, Hen. de Bermondcot. Ric de Selfhull (Selyhull). Ric. Hillary and a<sup>ls</sup> (About 24 Hen. III.)

S.D. A Deed of release from Christian the daūr of John of Bloxswich to Willm. Lord of Bentley for his homage & service, & halfe a mark of sylver, of



all the land w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> homagerents, herriotts, etc., in the ville of Blockswich, w<sup>ch</sup> may happen to her after the death of William her brother by way of inheritance, performing yearly all the services due to the chief Lord of the fees as accustomed test.

35 Ed. I. A release of the said lands from Ric. Osbarne of Essington and Nichola wife to the sd Lord of Bentley.

S.D. A Deed from Thom. le Rous, Knt. Lord of halfe Walshall to John, Lord of Bentley, of one place of wast in the fee of Walshall lying in length between his wood of Burchells & the park of Walshall as it is ditched, etc., w<sup>th</sup> the watercourse running near the sd place paying 2*d.* at four feast used (usual feasts) in the year in Walshall. Man<sup>r</sup> p oibz. test. dño Willo Trumwyn et als.

93 Ed. I. Roger Morteyn Ld. of Walshall grants to Jo. Ld. of Bentley a place [99 piece] of his wast lying in breadth between the Haybroke and Bluningshall, & in length from the way wh<sup>h</sup> goes from Bluningshall towards Wytnesoure and so to the land of Hen. Prestwood, test. Jo. Heronvile Willo Trumwyn Militibus.

S.D. A deed from Jo. Ld. of Walshall to Jo. Ld. of Bentley of the watercourse.

S.D. A Deed from Jo. Ld. of Bentley to John le Welbe de Walshall of a place of Land in the . . . wood of Bentley between the land of Richard Didaday and the way leading from Lofton Lane towards the Hay of Bentley our Lords the King's in length & in breadth from y<sup>e</sup> land of Simon the son of Robert of Walshall, to the water running from the Hay of our Ld. the King paying 12*d.* at two appearances at Court p. ann.

1 Ed. II. Letters patent granted by the King to John of Bentley enfeofed Edmund Somervill of his Manor of Bentley, & the Baylywike of the Hays to him and his heyres : & likewise licence to y<sup>e</sup> said Edmund to grant the sd manor and Baylywike to y<sup>e</sup> sd John and the heyres of his body lawfully begotten, & if the sayd John shall dye w<sup>th</sup> out heyres, then to John de Perton & the heyres of his body lawfully begotten, and if y<sup>e</sup> sayd John de Bentley and John de Perton shall dye, w<sup>th</sup>out heyres then to remain to y<sup>e</sup> sd Edmund & his heyres.

3 E. II. Rog. Morteyn, knt., Ld of Walshall, to John Ld. of Bentley, of land purchased by Will Bentley, Grandfather of y<sup>e</sup> sd John, of Xtian daür of John of Bloxwich.

9 Ed. II. Edmond Somervill grants to John of Bentley his Manor of Bentley w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> custody of the Hay to hold to him and the heyres of his body lawfull begotten, & for want of such issue, after y<sup>e</sup> death of y<sup>e</sup> sd John de Bentley and John de Perton, and by him the sayd Edmund and his heyres, test, dñis. Will. Trumwyn, Willo de Wrottesley, Tho. le Rous, Militz, Tho. dño de Darlaston, Willo Hillary de Bertemundeficte (?) (Bermundescote, Bescot), Ric. Leson de Willenhale and als.

9 Ed. II. A letter of attorney to deliv, seisin.

## HYDE.

14 E. II. John Ld. of Bentley to Will. Lene of Darlaston, test. Will. Hillary : Galfrid Leveson.

13 E. II. John Ld. of Bentley to Will. Lovale, test. Will. Hillary, Will. dno de Darlaston, Tho. dno Badgley.

11 E. II. Jo. Ld. of Bentley to Roger Hillary and Catherine his wife, Jo. Ld. of Bentley, to Will. Ld. of Darlaston.

1 R. II. Nic. Wightwick Capellanus and Clem. Leveson to Will. Bentley and Alianor his wife, then to Nich. Ruggeley, brother of y<sup>e</sup> sd. Will. Bentley, and then to John James brother of y<sup>e</sup> sd. Nich. Ruggeley, and for want of issue to the right heyres of Will. Bentley for ever. Test. Jo. Prestwood, Adam Waring, and als.

9 H. IV. Nicholas Ruggeley to Jo. Ashley, to Ric. Lone, test. Jo. Swinerton, Jo. Prestwood, R. Leveson of Willenhale and als.

12 H. IV. Ric. Lone to Jo. Ashley.

14 H. IV. Jo. Ashley to Nic. Ruggeley and Elinor his wife for their lives and their heyres, & for want of such issue to Jo. Jas. his brother, and his heyres, and for want of such issue to y<sup>e</sup> right heyres of Will. Bentley for ever. Test. Jo. Swinerton, Jo. Prestwood, Rog. Darlaston, Ric. Leveson of Willenhale.

3 H. VI. Tho. Griffith to Ric. Lone, & to his sonne, of lands w<sup>ch</sup> Ric. Harecourt and Elinor his wife hold for the life of the sd. Elinor, test. Will. Leveson.

11 H. VI. Rob. Norton to Ric. Lone of the lands and manor above sd. after y<sup>e</sup> death of Elinor Harecourt.

Jn. Lone to Ralph Egerton and al. of Bentley Manor and Hyde.

Elinor Harecourt releases to Jo. Lone, test. Jo. Somerford, dat. apd. Sardon.

16 H. VII. A Release from Hugh Egerton son and heyre of Ralph Egerton, to Ric. Lone cozen<sup>1</sup> and heyre of Jo. Lone, of y<sup>e</sup> Manor of Bentley and Hyde.

A Grant from Peter Giffard to John de Sparham of all the land wh. Adam of the Leye held (except one Croft called the Leye) w<sup>th</sup> housebote & hedgbote out of Chillington Wood, red. 2*d*.

A Grant from Walter of the Hyde to John de Sparham of the towne of the Hyde, red. 1*d*.

A Grant from John de Sparham, Canon of Lichfield, to Roger Morland, Bp. of Lichfield and Coventry, of all his lands in Hyde, Chillington, and Brewood, see y<sup>e</sup> deed

A Grant from Geffrey of the Hyde to John de Sparham of his part of Broad Meadow in the Hyde. Red. ob.

A Deed from Roger, bp. of Lichf. and Cov., to Urianus, Lord of St. Peters, Knt., of lands in the Hyde, Chillington, Brewood, wch. were Jo. Sparham's and David the Sergeaunt, paying to y<sup>e</sup> bp. and his heyre 1*d*. rent

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.*, grandson.

at Midsomer at his manor of Brewood, and performing such services as were done for the lands w<sup>ch</sup> were Jo. Sparham's to John Giffard w<sup>ch</sup> . . . . this Deed is confirmed by John the Dean and Chapter.

14 E. II. A Release from Adam the heire of the Hyde, and Emma his wife to the Lady Margaret of St. Peters of all their lands in Chillington and Hyde.

S.D. A Deed from Roger de Hyde, the sonne of Wifm. of the Hyde, to Petronell his daughter for her homage and service of all his land and tenements in Hyde, and also of all the s'vices of Robt. de Ovate, John de Hyde, Ric. Rotarius, Ric. the son of Ric., Will. de Wlnelch, Ric. de Buker et alis, paying a pair of gloves at Xmas or 4*d.* for all services, test.

S.D. Petronel the widow of Tho. Gypswich the daūr of Roger Hyde grants to Thomas the first begotten sonne of Levslan<sup>d</sup>'s, etc., in Hyde wh<sup>ch</sup> Roger the father gave (h)im to hold by a pair of gloves or 4*d.*

S.D. R. Wolveley to Tho. Hyde of a meadow.

23 Ed. I. Walter the sonne of Roger Hyde, Rector of Brealton (or Brentton), releaseth to Tho. his nephew, the lands above sd. and to pay a pare of white gloves for all services.

24 Ed. I. A release from Will. Corbucon to Tho. Hyde.

34 Ed. I. A release from John Giffard, Kt., to Tho. Hyde.

9 E. III. A grant from Ric. of Brewood to Tho. of the Hyde.

14 Ed. II. Walter of y<sup>e</sup> Hyde to Jo. Sparham of y<sup>e</sup> towne of the Hyde red. 1*d.*

28 Ed. III. Roger Jynkin to Ralph Hyde and Jone.

10 R. II. Jone the widow of Ralph Hyde to W. Gyles her brother.

Peter Giffard grants to Jo. de Sparham, all the land of the Leye<sup>1</sup> held w<sup>th</sup> housebote and hedgbote out of Chillington wood reds. 2*s.*

Walter of the Hyde grants to John de Sparham of the towne of the Hyde reds. 1*d.*

Jo. de Sparham, Canon of Lichfield, to Roger Moeland, Bp. of Lichfield and Cov., of all his lands in Hyde, Chillington, and Brewood.

Jeffry of the Hyde to Jo. de Sparham of his pt. of Broad Meadow in the Hyde reds. ob.

Tho. le Walker of the Hyde to Roger Bp. of L. and C. his part in Broad Meadow.

Roger Bp. of L. and C. to Sr. Urian St. Pere, Knt. of lands in y<sup>e</sup> Hyde Chillington, and Brewood wh. were Jo. Sparham's and David the Sergeant, paying to y<sup>e</sup> Bp. 1*d.* at Midsomer at his manor of Brewood, and performing such services as were due for y<sup>e</sup> lands w<sup>ch</sup> were John Sparham's to Jo. Giffard confirmed by y<sup>e</sup> Dean and Chapter.

34 E. I. Sr. John Giffard, Knt. releaseth to Tho. of the Hyde and his heyses all and singular his estovers in the wood of Chillington, wh<sup>h</sup> he hath acknowledged in y<sup>e</sup> King's Court at Westminster.

<sup>1</sup> The Leye and Hyde seem to be the same place.

## COVEN MANOR.

7 Ed. II. An exchange between Jo. de Aldenham and Raph Lord of Coven.

30 E. III. A deed from Ric. le Taylor to Jo. Coven of y<sup>e</sup> manor of Coven.

40 E. III. A Deed from Tho. de Coven Knt. to Rob. Jones, Skinner of London, of all his lands and services in Coven.

40 E. III. A letter of Attorney from Tho. de Coven to Rad. Hyde to deliver possess<sup>a</sup> to Rob. Jones.

40 E. III. A Deed from Rob. de Coven, Skinner of London to Jo. de Coven of all y<sup>e</sup> lands in Coven w<sup>ch</sup> were of y<sup>e</sup> feoffm<sup>t</sup>. of Tho. de Coven.

41 E. III. A Release from Joan y<sup>e</sup> daür of W. Jones of Coven to Wal. Woodhouse of a messuage and lands in Coven and Pendeford.

15 R. II. A Deed from Jo. de Coven to Will. Hyde and Jo. Sawyer of that messuage w<sup>ch</sup> he had of y<sup>e</sup> feoffmt. of Robt. Jones, cit. and skinner of Lond., in Coven.

18 R. II. A Deed from Jo. Ld. of Coven to John Bradeley and Will. Hyde, cap., of his Manor of Coven, etc., to hold by them and their heyres, paying a rose at Midsomer. Test. Will. Marshall sch<sup>r</sup>, Jo. Giffard, Egidio de Hyde, Rob. de Bidulph, Thos. de Brinsford.

6 H. V. A release from Jo. Norman, cit. of London, and Lucy his wife to Ric. of Coven, of all their interest in the lands of the sayd Ric. in Coven.

10 H. V. A Deed from Tho. Baddesley and Cat. his wife to Jo. of Coven of y<sup>e</sup> reversion of all the lands wh<sup>ch</sup> were Will. Jones, father of the said Cat. in Coven and Pen.

10 H. V. A Release from Will. Dawes, Thos. Wright, Ric. Lone, and Tho. Brinsford of all their lands in Coven, of Jo. of Coven to him and his heyres.

12 H. VI. Release from Tho. Roddesley (Baddesley?) and Cat, his wife to Ric. Lone of all their lands in Coven and Pen, except one p'cell in Coven 3 foot long and 2 foote broad.

A Deed from Walt. bp. of Coventry to Ralp his . . . Lord of Harborne, of one rood of land in Hamunden with the Hay and Louvrishrudding and several other lands and freedoms.

S.D. A Deed from y<sup>e</sup> Convent to Raph., etc.

S.D. A Deed from Walt, Bp. of Coventry to Raph his . . . of all his land in Bromhale, wh<sup>h</sup> Will. his uncle and the widow of Alricus held reds 4s.

S.D. A Deed from Raph of Bromhale to Waltr. his man the son of Will. of Bromhale of all his lands which were to Will. father of y<sup>e</sup> sd. Walter rds. 10s.

S.D. A Deed from Jo. Lord of Bromhale to Adam his sonne and Lettice his wife of all his land in Bromhale and Chillington.

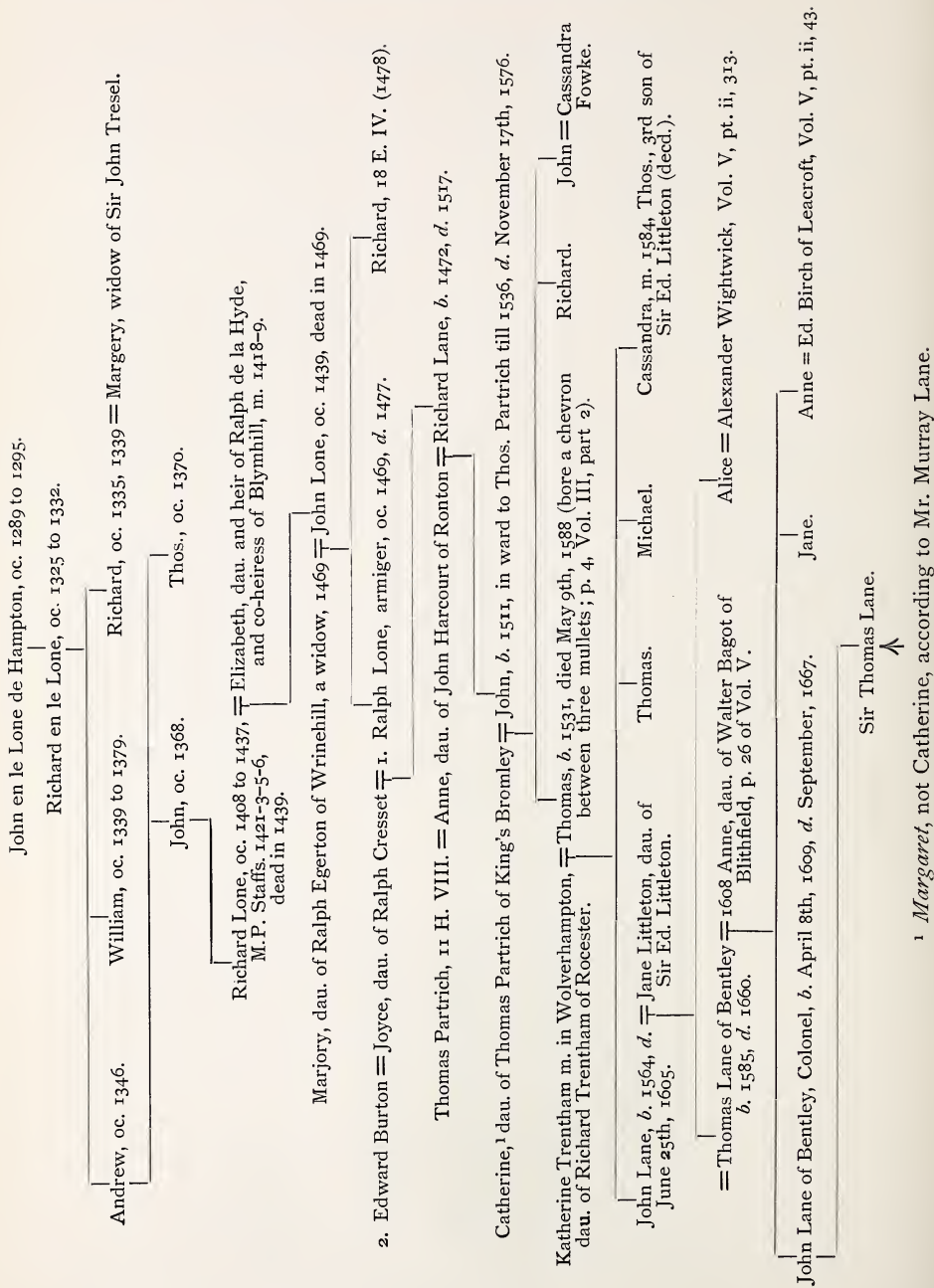
27 E. I. A Deed from Jo. son of Raph of Bromhale to Tho. of the Hyde of all his lands, etc. in Bromhale w<sup>th</sup> the Ldship.

27 E. III. A release from Giles of ye Hide y<sup>e</sup> son of Tho., to Raph his brother of his lands in Bromhale in wh<sup>h</sup> he had an Estate for life from his father.

28 Ed. III. A Deed from Raph of the Hyde to Jone his wife and Tho. his son of the Manor of Bromhale and the heyres of Tho. and for want of such issue to y<sup>e</sup> right heyres of Raph.

20 R. II. A Release from Agnes Somerford sometime wife of Robt. Fowlehurst to Jn<sup>o</sup> Hyde, of land in Bromhale, wh<sup>h</sup> 'sometime was Jno. Hyde's.

6 H. V. A Deed from Joan Bargalon to Ric. and Eliz<sup>th</sup>. Lone of the Manor of Bromhale, land in Codsall &c. wh<sup>h</sup> were Raph Hydes in Bromhale and Horsbrooke.



<sup>1</sup> *Margaret*, not Catherine, according to Mr. Murray Lane.

NOTES ON  
STAFFORDSHIRE FAMILIES.

BY

W. FOWLER CARTER.





# NOTES ON STAFFORDSHIRE FAMILIES.

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## PREFACE.

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### THE PLAN OF THESE NOTES.

STAFFORDSHIRE is fortunate in that its three Heraldic Visitations were all edited by Henry Sydney Grazebrook ; and these notes will, I trust, be regarded as a tribute to him as well as a continuation of his work.

His annotated copy of the Visitations is in the William Salt Library, and it first occurred to me that I might edit the annotations he had made, adding memoranda relating to a few families of whose pedigrees I happened to have special knowledge.

But I soon became dissatisfied with this project. In the first place, the annotations, which were largely taken from the Visitations and collections published by the Harleian Society, were neither systematic nor complete : then, it was also pointed out to me that Mr. Grazebrook was more especially versed and interested in the pedigrees of South Staffordshire families, and readers connected with the northern part of the county might complain that they were neglected.

Though it would manifestly be impossible for one writer to produce, or one Society to print, detailed histories of all the principal families of the county, hardly any such family should be entirely omitted.

Moreover it would be advisable that these notes should be continued easily by others upon the same lines, and I therefore propose to state in each case exactly what has been examined, a system which will relieve succeeding students of much unnecessary labour. The duplication of work among genealogists and antiquaries is quite lamentable, and I wish these *Notes on Staffordshire Families* to form a nucleus round which the

researches of future antiquaries should accumulate, so that the collections concerning any particular family or surname would be linked together and an enquirer would see almost at a glance what researches his fore-runners had made and what results they had achieved. In fact, I would have a County Antiquarian Society keep, as it were, a Ledger of Family Histories, and each new fact discovered or research undertaken should be duly posted to the proper page wherein the account of the family concerned is recorded. In some cases, one cannot possibly do more than open an account; leaving it to successors or possible co-adjutors to contribute the items. But even this modest work should have some value; it will make a beginning, and offer a foundation which may tempt others to erect thereon a substantial edifice.

Lastly, without neglecting the accurate language and the strict rules of evidence required by modern genealogists, I have endeavoured to include in these notes some matters that may interest the ordinary archæologist, the student of language, and the general reader.

#### THE FAMILIES DEALT WITH.

The basis of these notes is an alphabetical list of all the Pedigrees entered, and of all the persons summoned or disclaimed, at the three Visitations of the County in 1583, 1614 and 1663-4. It includes also the three or four pedigrees from other counties printed by Grazebrook along with the two later Visitations. The list numbers (allowing for duplications) about 550, and few indeed were the families of any importance in the County who escaped the notice of the Heralds at all their three perambulations. Not having access to the records of Heralds' College, I cannot be certain whether the official copies of Visitation contain one or two pedigrees which have not appeared in print, but am practically sure that they do not, and I have checked the list of "Disclaimers" with those contained in Mr. J. Paul Rylands' invaluable *Disclaimers at the Heralds' Visitations*. I also endeavour to establish the identities of all the persons summoned or disclaimed, as also of their estates. With regard to the former there is an occasional difficulty due to

insufficient description, and—very rarely—to apparent duplication, the same man being summoned in two Hundreds: residences also, in such a case, are difficult to discover, sometimes they are omitted, and sometimes they bear names which have utterly vanished or belong now only to obscure farm-houses.

It must not be supposed that I give detailed, or even general accounts, of all the families in this list. That would be impossible, and in the case of those, such as Wrottesley, Giffard and Okeover, whose histories have appeared at full length in these Volumes, as also of those to be found in the *Peerages* and the *Landed Gentry*, would in general be superfluous. Even as to these, however, my scheme proposes to give something of interest from original documents that has not yet appeared, and to add occasionally something in the way of genealogical criticism.

I may add that, as it is impossible when investigating the early history of a family to keep one's researches strictly to a direct line, or to avoid including distinct families of the same surname, so it is part of the wastefulness I have already deplored, not to publish these extraneous results of enquiry. I print them, therefore, believing that they are almost certain to save future investigators from much work, and to provide encouragement and useful clues to those whose connection with the more important family is uncertain or unlikely.

#### THE MATERIAL EMPLOYED.

##### (1) *Wills and Administrations in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.*

I propose to print abstracts of all these Wills affecting Staffordshire to the end of the sixteenth century. During the seventeenth century no satisfactory list of Staffordshire Testators can be compiled, because the official calendars in many cases assign no counties and are often so worn as to be undecipherable. I have however done some work for this period, and have made use of Mr. J. H. Lea's *Abstracts of Wills, Register Soame 1620*, and Mr. William Brigg's *Genealogical Abstracts of Wills, Register Wootton 1658*. I have even examined a few eighteenth century wills, but I consider that nothing beyond the sixteenth century is "nominated in the bond." Of Adminis-

trations I have made but slight and casual use, but have laid under contribution Matthews' valuable *Year Book of Probates*.

Lastly, I have had the use of a considerable number of Prerogative Court Wills—abstracts made for the William Salt Society under my instructions by the Misses Stokes and Cox, whose admirable work deserves the highest commendation.

(2) *Wills and Administrations at Lichfield.*

The new official calendar has enabled me to compile lists of wills and make abstracts more easily than was formerly possible. The Society is much indebted both to Mr. William Deller and Mr. Marston of Lichfield for permission to consult their large private collections of Will Abstracts.

(3) *Miscellaneous Wills and Administrations.*

In addition to the foregoing researches, there will be found in these notes some abstracts of wills made at Chester, St. Asaph, Worcester, Dublin and York, which do not profess to be the result of complete searches.

(4) *The Public Record Office.*

I have used and refer to the following:—

- (a) *The Inquisitions Post Mortem of the reign of Henry III.* (issued in 1898).
- (b) *The Lists of Inquisitions Post Mortem*, Vol. I, "Henry VIII. to Philip and Mary"; Vol. II, "Elizabeth."
- (c) The Five Volumes of Ancient Deeds.
- (d) The Four Volumes of Lists of Early Chancery Proceedings. All Staffordshire Suits have been noted, and I am compiling an index of surnames to those suits.

(5) *The William Salt Society Volumes.*

I am compiling a proper index to, and have used, the following Rolls printed in these Collections:—

- (a) "The Subsidy Roll of 1327." All five Hundreds. (*Staff. Hist. Coll.*, VII, 195.)
- (b) "The Subsidy Roll of 1332-3." All five Hundreds. (*Staff. Hist. Coll.*, X, 79.)

- (c) "The Poll Tax of 1379-80." Lichfield, Offlow Hundred and Cuddestone Hundred. (*Staff. Hist. Coll.*, XVII, 157.)
- (d) The Muster Roll of 1539. All five Hundreds. (*Staff. Hist. Coll.*, N.S., IV, 213; N.S., V, 233; N.S., VI, part i, 61.)

I have also used the "Final Concords," which begin with the Series 1327-1547 (*Staff. Hist. Coll.*, XI, 127) and are continued in the Volumes as follows:—XII, part i, 177 and 235; XIII, 207; XIV, part i, 165; XV, 129; XVI, 95; XVII, 208; XVIII, part i, 1; N.S., III, 1; N.S., IV, 1; N.S., VI, part i, 1; N.S., VII, 191; N.S., X, part i, 11.

- (6) *The Harleian Society*,<sup>1</sup> *Visitation Volumes. The Genealogist. Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica.*

I have noted and indexed, I believe, every Staffordshire reference in these three collections.

(7) *Information from private sources.*

I have already received much assistance from others who are interested in various families. This has taken the shape in some cases of notes from family papers, etc., and in others of defraying the cost of Will Abstracts made to my instructions, and it may be hoped that both these examples will be followed by other families, for this work cannot possibly be carried through by one man alone. The Committee authorise me to say that if anyone chooses to contribute to these notes, he may rest assured that his contributions when they appear in print will be attributed to himself and not to me, and that (subject to his own wishes) they shall be held, until printed, in trust for the William Salt Society. This understanding may, I hope, secure for the Society much valuable material which natural jealousy or pride of authorship might otherwise reasonably keep back.

WM. FOWLER CARTER.

*April*, 1910.

<sup>1</sup> This Society has most generously given me permission to obtain stereo reproductions of some of their beautiful armorial engravings, and these will be used to illustrate the pedigrees in this work.

## I. ABELL.

George Abell of Newburgh (Newborough near Uttoxeter, formerly in Hanbury Parish) was summoned under Offlow Hundred in the 1583 Visitation, and described therein as "Senescallus com. Salop." Mr. Abell of Newborough was similarly summoned in 1614. No appearance seems to have been made in either case, and certainly no pedigree was entered, but in neither Visitation was the representative of the family described as "Ignobilis." No other mention of anyone bearing this surname occurs in any of the three Visitations. The "Mr. Abell" of 1614 I cannot identify: he may have been the George, son of Robert, shown in the pedigree given hereafter as nephew of the elder George, and was probably the George Abell, gentleman, who bought property in Burton-on-Trent by fine of Michaelmas, 1598.<sup>1</sup>

John Abel appears at Forsbrook, in the Subsidy Rolls of 1327 and 1332. John Abel of Caldewall (near Drakelow, in Derbyshire) was concerned in a fine relating to the manor of Colton, Staffordshire, in 1392,<sup>2</sup> and in 1396 was an executor of John de Greseley of Drakelow.<sup>3</sup> Richard Abelle was an able-bodied bill-man, without horse and harness, at Lichfield, in the Muster of 1539;<sup>4</sup> and was possibly of the same family as "Alice, daughter of Abell, widow, of Lichfield," who married John Vincent of Shepey Magna, Leicestershire, and was mother of Richard Vincent of Shepey, who appeared at the Leicestershire Visitation of 1619.<sup>5</sup>

## P.C.C. WILLS.

That George Abell was a man of wealth and position is sufficiently shown by the two following wills, which are the only sixteenth century wills of Abells connected with Staffordshire proved in P.P.C.

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XVIII, p. 15.

<sup>2</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XI, p. 199.

<sup>3</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XV, p. 74.

<sup>4</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, New Series, Vol. IV, p. 225.

<sup>5</sup> *Harl. Soc.*, Vol. II, p. 79.

Robert Abell of Stapenhull, co. Derby. (33 Rutland)

Dated 18 March, 1587/8. Proved 17 May, 1588.

I bequeath to George Abell, my son, all the tithes of Ticknall and all other my lands, tenements, etc., including leases in Ticknall or elsewhere. To the poor of Ticknall 40s. To the poor of Stapenhull 20s. Residuary legatees : my said son, and my nephew, Robert Royle.

Executor :—my said son.

Overseers :—my brother and my dear friend Edward Blunt, gent.

Signed :—"per me Robertum Abell."

Witnesses :—John Butler, John Shephard, And. Shephard, with others.

Proved by Edward Orwell, notary public, proxy for the Executor named.

George Abell of Newborough, co. Staff., Esquire. (43 Cobham)

Dated 3 May, 1596. Proved 2 May, 1597.

I bequeath to Ellenn my wife ten kine and one bull, four heifers and other live stock ; my plate of silver with my household stuff within the house here at Newborough, except such of mine as came from Neither Seale ; and two of my best ironbound wains with geares, etc., thereto belonging, and other implements of husbandry ; also £10 yearly out of my farm at Stapenhill to be paid by the hands of Edward Blunt of Burton in the said county of Stafford, Esquire, during the term of a lease yet unexpired, which lease was made unto me and Robert Abell my late deceased brother by Robert Abell, Esquire, our father and dated 1 July, 1 Edward VI., in discharge of a bond made by me the said George Abell and Robert Abell of Ticknall co. Derby, deceased unto Thomas Honninges and Frauncis Whittington, gent., dated 9 May, 10 Elizabeth, and the said £10 to be paid yearly to the said Ellenn according to the condition of the said bond.

I also give to my said wife all my corn and grain. To George Abell my godson son of my nephew Edward Abell, my chain of gold (he the said Edward giving £10 to my very good friend M<sup>r</sup>. Edward Blunt aforesaid) ; also all my lands in Beaupard co. Derby. To Edward Abell my nephew, for the use of his daughter Elizabeth £20 out of the farm at Stapenhill. To the children of my nephew Walter Royle all my peas ricks at Stapenhill, also my goods and chattels left at Seale, and now in his possession ; also the advowson of Nether Seale co. Leicester. To my cousin Susanna wife of the said Walter Royle two kine. To my nephew George Abell £20 and one young colt. To Sampson Warner my servant 20 nobles and one white gray trotting nag now going in Nedwood. To my cousin Ann Shevyn wife of Ralph Shevyn one cow.

To Alice Newbold my servant £5 for full satisfaction of one cow and her hire. To every of my servants one half-year's wages. To M<sup>r</sup>. Thomas Warner of Bromeshill co. Stafford £5.

Residuary legatees and Executors :—Ellen my wife and Edward Abell my nephew.

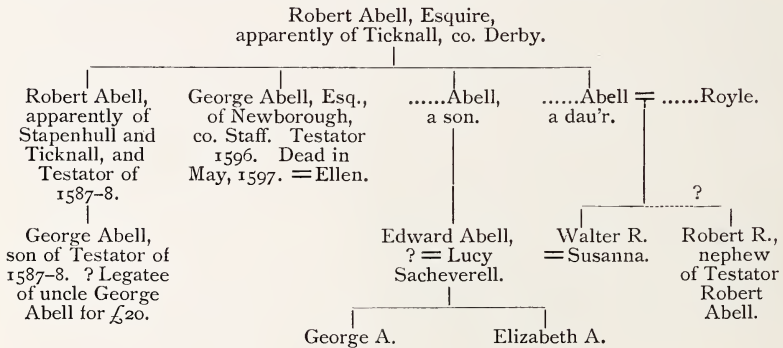
Overseers :—my friends Richard Bagott and Humfrey Wells, Esquires.

Signed :—per me Georgium Abell.

Witnesses :—Richard Bagott, Humfrey Wells, William Bateman, Thomas Alcole, John Tipell, Thomas Warner, John Alleid with others.

Proved by Thomas Browne notary public proxy for the Executors named.

I cannot absolutely decide whether the testator of the former of these two wills was Robert, the brother, or Robert, the father of George, but I have little doubt that he was the brother. Edward Abell was doubtless the Edward Abell of Tickenhall, co. Derby, who married (according to a Visitation<sup>1</sup> of Nottinghamshire) Lucy, daughter of Rafe Sacheverell of Staunton. Lucy's brother William was aged 25 in 158—. George Abell, the son of Robert, was, I expect, the George Abell of Derbyshire, gentleman, who matriculated at Brasenose College, Oxford, aged 17, in 1578, and was admitted to the Inner Temple in 1581, as of Stapenhill, co. Derby. From the foregoing evidences I construct the following pedigree :—



#### LICHFIELD WILLS.

There are two sixteenth century wills, of Ticknall Abells at Lichfield, but the earliest will of an Abell of Staffordshire is the following :—

Agnes Abell of Creighton [Uttoxeter parish].

Dated 1 December, 1536. Proved 26 January, 1536/7.

To be buried in the churchyard of Uttoxeter. To Richard Warton a cow. My wering geyre to my children at the oversight of my son Sir John, and Rychard my son, and I make them executors. Overseers (*sic*) :—Ryc. Abell, Juner, and Sir John Abell. No inventory. Proved by both Executors.

<sup>1</sup> *Harl. Soc.*, Vol. IV, p. 163.



The son "Sir John" was probably the John Abell, Curate of Kingstone, whose will was proved in 1558, but I have no abstract of it. The following will was proved the same year:—

Thomas Abell of Uttoxeter.

Dated 21 June, 1558. Proved 21 October, 1558.

"In the fourth and fifthe yeres of the Reynes of our Sovereignes Lorde and Ladye Philippe and Marye by the grace of God of Englande Spayne Francc both Syclyes Jerusalem and Ireland Kyng and Quene defenders of the faythe Archedukes of Austria dukes of Burgundye Myllane and Brabant Countyes of Haspurge Flaunders and Tyroll."

To be buried in the churche yard of Uttoxeter. Residue to Johan my wiffe and to my children equally.

Executors:—my wyffe and William my son.

Overseers:—My brothers Rychard Abell of Creyghton and my brother in law Robert Butler.

Witnesses:—William Abell, Henrye Alsoppe.

Inventory taken by Rycharde Abell Robert Alsoppe and Robert Gretwyche, 18 October, 1558, includes:—Two kyne 32s. ; A troynter<sup>1</sup> heifer 8s. ; Two yerling calves 10s. ; Two wayning calves 6s. 8d. ; One frying panne, a brondyron, a broche, a bill, pothooks and potcheanes 2s. ; Aparell 5s. Total, £5 14s. 2d.

Richard Abell of Uttoxeter.

Dated 15 February, 1558–9. Proved 10 April, 1558–9.

To be buried in the churche yarde of Uttoxeter. Children Thomas, Robert, Agnes, Margaret and Elizabeth to have the half of his ferme from his decease to the Feast of the Annunciation next following. From the said feast, his son William to have the ferme testator holds from the Deane and Chapter of Winsore by Cople, for the remainder of the term. Son Thomas to have Tumkyns feyld held by lease from Robert Wellys gentleman. Three daughters to have "three of my greatest potts" besides their childe part of his goods. The residue between Thomas, Robert and the three daughters.

Executors:—Sons Thomas and Robert.

Overseers:—my brother Richard Abell of Creyghton and Richard Bakewell of Uttoxeter.

Witnesses:—Robert Tumleston, Henry Alsoppe and others.

Inventory, taken 11 April, 1559, by Lewis Walker, William Maist'rgent, John Bott, Henry Smythe, includes:—Three yerling calves 20s. ; One Mare 15s. ; One Swyne 5s. ; Three coverlydds and three twill sheets 16d. Total £4 6s. 8d.

There is nothing to show that these Abells were related to George, the "Esquire," though it is probable ; and in the absence

<sup>1</sup> This means, I think, a "three-winter" heifer, just as a "twinter" means a "two-winter," but the value seems very low.

of notes from Church Registers and the will of "Sir John," I cannot construct a pedigree. Richard, the testator of 1558-9, may well have been the Richard Abell an "abull man and bill-man," but having no "harnesse" mentioned under Totmonslow Hundred (which includes Creighton), in the 1539 Muster Roll.<sup>1</sup> This less important family, however, continued at Uttoxeter for some further period, as the following abstracts show :—

Richard Abel of Creighton co. Stafford, husbandman.

Dated 21 January, 1624-5. Proved 2 September, 1625.

To be buried in the churchyard of Uttoxeter. To each of my children £10 at sixteen. To my brother John Abell's children twelve pence each. To my sister Margery Tomlinson's children twelve pence each. Residue to Elizabeth my wief and she Executrix.

Overseers :—my neighbours John Higgs and James Wakefeild.

Witnesses :—Roger Starkey, James Wakefelt, John Higgs and Edward Gilbert. Inventory dated 17 March, 1624-5, amounts to £24 13s. *od.*, the appraisers being John Higgs, James Wakefelt, Richard Baylie and Roger Starkey. Proved by the Executrix.

John Abell of Creighton, parish of Uttoxeter, husbandman.

Dated 1 February, 1627-8. Proved 15 July, 1628.

To be buried in the church or churchyard of Uttoxeter. To my servant Elizabeth Wolley a bed, etc. To Anne Doughtie my other servant a calfe, etc. To my grandchild John Abell of Uttoxeter a brass panne. To my two godchildren Katherine and Mary Abell sisters of the said John 40s. each. To my daughter in law Elizabeth wife of John Bagnall twelve pence. To my son Richard Abell's two daughters Ellen and Mary 10s. each. To Robert Tomlinson's children 12s. among them. To M<sup>r</sup>. Luke Bigbie and Edward Ball of Uttoxeter 10s. each. To Jone Ball daughter of the said Edward 5s. To Edward Ouldfield, John Archer and Margaret Carr 3s. 4*d.* each. To James Wakefield 12*d.* To John Wylde of Strongeshall 3s. 4*d.* To John Bagnall a table. The Residue to my daughter Margaret Tomlinson.

Executors :—Luke Bigbie and Edward Ball.

Overseer :—James Wakefield.

Witnesses :—George Higgs and William Weld. No Inventory. Will proved by both Executors.

Richard Abell of the parish of Uttoxeter, husbandman.

Dated 19 October, 1630. Proved 21 January, 1630-1.

To be buried in the church or churchyard of Uttoxeter. To George Abell my son 12*d.* To the two children of my brother Thomas 12*d.* each. To my brother Thomas a jerkin. Residue to my daughter Ann Abell and she Executrix.

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, New Series, Vol. VI, Part I, p. 86.

Witnesses :—Tho. Lightfoot, Robert Stoke, Marie Scot and Juliana Lesson. Inventory dated 3 December, 1630, amounts to £12 2s. 6d.  
Appraisers :—Richard Middleton, Burton Goodwin and Henry Pixley, all of Uttoxeter. The Will proved by the Executrix.

The other sixteenth century wills of Staffordshire Abells to be found at Lichfield are :—

1540. John Habel, of Patshull.  
1564. William Abell, of Hanbury—Admon.

There are also several Abell wills of Somersal Herbert, which, though near Uttoxeter, is in Derbyshire ; and some of Norbury, which is, I think, the Derbyshire Norbury. I expect that the ancestral " Abel " from whom the surname was probably inherited must be looked for in Derbyshire. In *Kelly's Directory* of 1908 the surname occurs neither among the " Private Residents " nor the " Farmers " of Staffordshire.

#### LICHFIELD MARRIAGE LICENCES TO 1700.

1661. Edward Abell and Dorothy Goldsmith, at Uttoxeter.  
1684. Marmaduke Abell and Margaret Flint, at Bonsall or Crich.  
1689. Isaac Abell and Ellen Cope, at Uttoxeter or Bramshall.

#### HERALDIC NOTES.

I learn from Burke's *Armory* that at the Visitation of Derbyshire in 1611, the Abells of Stapenhill entered these arms: *Argent, on a saltire engrailed azure, nine fleurs de lis of the field.* This same coat was claimed at the 1634 Visitation of London by Alderman William Abell, whose father and grandfather were of Oundle, Northamptonshire ; and there was evidently a difference of opinion among the Heralds as to whether the alderman's claim should be allowed.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Harl. Soc.*, Vol. XV, p. 2.

## 2. ABNETT.

Thomas Abnet of Audley was the head of this family at the time of the 1663-4 Visitation, being then aged seventy-four years; and the pedigree was carried back to his grandfather John Abnet of Audley, who would be born about 1530. The pedigree is not very full, but the evidence of Wills enlarges it, and as the family was not very numerous, I have been able to treat its history during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries with some approach to exhaustiveness.

The origin of the family presents a puzzle, which I cannot at present solve, for the name does not occur in the early Subsidy Rolls or Poll-tax of the County, or in any published Records known to me, of earlier date than the sixteenth century, and has a foreign appearance. On the other hand, it has been stated<sup>1</sup> that "Abbinett" is one of the ancient names of Hampshire, where it is still to be found.

It may possibly be that in Thomas Hobynhede of Chiston, yeoman, who with several others was sued<sup>2</sup> in 1472 for breaking into the close of Thomas Adderley at Kingeley, we have an early Abnett with his name very much disguised.

I cannot feel certain as to the exact date of the Star Chamber Proceedings<sup>3</sup> in which Thomas Abnett, John Abnett the elder and John Abnet the younger were charged with riotous assemblage at Yeardeley End in Audley. According to the complainant, they threatened that "they will either kill or else have a leg or an arm of your said subject"; but on their own showing they were "very quiet persons" endeavouring to maintain their lawful title to a message and premises.

The date was evidently early in the reign of Henry VIII., and either Thomas, or the elder John may well have been the husband of Alice Abnett who heads the pedigree now given. She was:—

I. ALICE ABNETT of Audley. Her Will, dated 12th August, 1524, was proved at Lichfield not later than 1526.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *The Homes of Family Names*, by H. B. Guppy, p. 205.

<sup>2</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, New Series, Vol. IV, p. 185.

<sup>3</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, New Series, Vol. X, p. 166.

<sup>4</sup> It is entered in the special book of wills proved, 1516 to 1526.

She desires to be buried in the church yerde of Audeley. "I bequeth my princypall the (*i.e.*, that) which is right. It is my wyll to have a trentall of masses said for my sowle." Sons Thomas and John to have the take of my house that I had of Mr. Egerton.<sup>1</sup> A flaxen shete to the church to make a surples. My best kyrtle to Agnes Underwood. To Helyn Yardley<sup>2</sup> 6*d.* To Margery Bedyll 6*d.* To Burton Lazars 4*d.* To Saint Chad of Lichfield 4*d.* To Saynt maries of Coventry 4*d.* Sons Thomas and John, Executors.

From the foregoing Will it is evident that Alice was the mother of two sons :—

1. Thomas Abnett, of whom hereafter.
2. John Abnett, who was evidently the younger son. His name appears under Audeley in the Muster Roll of 1539, next after that of his brother, but he had no "harnes or artilarie." I find no trace of his having had a wife or children.

II. THOMAS ABNETT of Audley (son of Alice), evidently the elder son, appears in the 1539 Muster Roll with "harnes for a mon." His Will, dated 3rd July, 1555, was proved at Lichfield in 1558, the following being an abstract of it :—

Thomas Abnet of Audeley.—"My soule to allmyghtie god, to o'r blessed Lady seint Mary and to all the holy companie of hevyn." To be buried in the Churche yerde of Audeley. To the high altar 3*s.* 4*d.* to be bestowed at the oversight of "Mr. Vykar" and the churchwardens.

The lease of taking of my house "wonne halfe" to my brother John Abnet, and "thother halfe" unto my wife and children. If my wife die, my son John Abnet to have the lease, for bringing up my children as they ought to be, at the oversight of Roger Comerbach,<sup>3</sup> Richard Yardley,<sup>3</sup> Rondulphe Reve and Hugh Reve.<sup>3</sup> Residue to wife and children.

Executors :—Brother John Abnet and Nicholas Silkson.<sup>3</sup> Witnesses :—Richarde Duninge, Richard Yardley, John Abnet.

<sup>1</sup> This was probably the messuage mentioned above, of which Rauffe Eggerton was stated to be the landlord.

<sup>2</sup> Richard Yeardeley was one of those who supported the Abnetts in their "riot," and was probably a relation. Neither he nor Helyn appears in the Yardley Pedigree entered at the 1583 Visitation.

<sup>3</sup> These four had all joined with the Abnetts in the riotous assemblage mentioned above, but the last named appears as "Fylkeson" in the pleadings as printed.

The foregoing Will shows that Thomas Abnet had other children, but the only one mentioned is:—

III. JOHN ABNETT (son of Thomas) evidently his son and heir. He is doubtless the John with whom the Visitation Pedigree begins, and as I shall show that that John had a son William and a daughter Margaret, I have no hesitation in saying that this is the John Abnett of Audeley, administration of whose effects was granted at Lichfield on 2nd May, 1599, to Margaret the relict, and William the son. John Abnett had the following issue:—

1. William Abnett, probably the elder son, of whom hereafter.
2. Rauffe Abnett of London, clothworker, who is not mentioned in the Visitation Pedigree. He seems to have made an unsatisfactory marriage, his wife being possibly sister of Richard Sneade whom he calls in his Will "my brother." I give below an abstract of his long and interesting Will which was dated 8th July, 1596, and proved in P.C.C.<sup>1</sup> 13th May, 1597, so it will be seen that he predeceased his father. He evidently died without issue.
  1. Bridgett Abnett mentioned in her brother Rauffe's Will as wife of Richard Wilde of Wistersonne (Wistaston) Cheshire. The (Harl. Soc.) 1634 Visitation of Hertfordshire<sup>2</sup> asserts that Bridget, daughter of *William* Abnet of Audley married *Edward* Weld of Weld's Green, Cheshire, and was mother of Alexander Weld of Wedbury Hill, Herts, living in 1634. Apparently however the Heralds' College copy of the Visitation calls her husband Richard, though it leaves her as daughter of *William*.<sup>3</sup> Weld and Wilde are different forms of the same name.
  2. Margaret Abnett married Edward Heath of Keele, husbandman; and to their issue Rauffe Abnett left £5 apiece.

<sup>1</sup> (41 Cobham.)

<sup>2</sup> *Harl. Soc.*, Vol. XXII, p. 103.

*Misc. Gen. and Her.*, New Series, Vol. I, p. 113.

The following is an abstract of the Will of "Rauffe Abnett of the City of London, clothworker."

I desire to be buried in the Savoy church near the Strand. I give to my sister Bridgett's daughter my god-daughter £20, and to every other of the children of my said sister now living by my brother-in-law Richard Wilde of Wistersonne, Cheshire, yeoman, her husband, £10 apiece. To every of the children of my sister Margaret Heath by Edward Heath of Keele, co. Stafford, husbandman, £5 apiece. To my brother Richard Sneade £20.

To goodman Randall of the parish of St. Giles in the Fields, Middlesex, gunpowder maker (who hath a gunpowder house of mine near Bloomsbury) the lease of the same gunpowder house which I now have, and I forgive the said Randall all debts owing to me and I give to his now wife 20s. To Alice Owlsoncrofte<sup>1</sup> of St. Andrew's, Holborn, widow, 40s. To my fellow Thomas Clarke of London, clothworker, one mourning gown, and to every of his children now living 20s.

Various small legacies to Richard Cooke of High Holborn, blacksmith ; goodwife Lufford of St. Martin in the Fields ; Elizabeth Wollard of the Savoy, widow ; friend William Brathwitt cornporter to Her Majesty, and every of his children.

To every one of my now apprentices and servants £3. I forgive to William Frithe father of my now apprentice Thomas Frithe all debts owing to me. To William Brewerton my brother's man 40s. Thomas Fox my now servant and apprentice shall have to his own use all such wares as are in the shop of my now mansion house in the Savoy Rents, and all my instruments belonging to my profession, also my shop rent free for four years, he paying to my Executor £340, and putting in two sureties for double the amount at or in the new mansion house of James Gardiner tailor in the Savoy Rents. I also forgive him all such service as he now oweth.

[Here follows a business settlement with the Testator's partner Henry Crosse.]

To the Company of Clothworkers of the City of London, whereof I am ree £25 for the help of young beginners. To the parson and churchwardens of the Savoy £20. To the parson and churchwardens of St. Clement Danes £20. I give £10 to poor maids of the parish of the Savoy at the day of their marriages, and £5 for a like purpose in St. Clement Danes.

To the parson and churchwardens of Awdley co. Stafford £10 for the poor, and to the poor maids at their day of marriage ; and £5 to the parish of Onseaton<sup>2</sup> co. Staffordshire, for a like purpose. To six of my poor kinsmen of my mother's side £3 apiece. To the hospital of the Savoy one bed of the value of 50s., and to the poor resorting there 20s. To Christ's Hospital, London, £5. To *twelve* poor men *twenty* gowns for my funeral.

<sup>1</sup> ? = Wolstoncroft.

<sup>2</sup> I take this to be a name for Church Eaton, which contains the hamlets of High Onn and Little Onn.

To my loving brother William Abnett of Grays Inn, gentleman, a ring, and to either of his two sons 20s. To Mr. Peter Lylly Batchelor of Divinity and brother of the Savoy £3. To my neighbour and friend Mrs. Welshe wife to Mr. George Welshe one of my overseers and to Elizabeth Welshe his daughter, to either of them a ring. To my friend Joseph Rawson, scrivener my watch of iron work, he paying 10s. for the same.

Residuary legatee and Executor my brother in law Richard Wilde. Overseers :—George Welshe of the Strand, Her Majesty's Bitmaker ; and James Gardner of the Savoy, tailor ; to each of whom I give £3 for their trouble.

Should my Executor refuse to act, then I appoint the said overseers as Executors of this Will. In that case then I give to the said (*sic*) Agnes Heath £150. Signed :—Rauffe Abnett.

Witnesses :—Jo. Rauson, sriptor ; George Pitman ; Ambrose Waldinge, seal.

Codicil dated Easter Monday, 28 March, 39 Elizabeth (1597).

This chiefly records a conversation between the Testator and the said James Gardner. "Then saide the saide James, 'Sonne it were fitt your wife should haue what she brought unto you and fortie poundes more.' Who answered 'Yea good father let it be soe.' The said Rauffe said 'Father I have in no way altered my will save only in this that I have made my brother Welde my executor. And have given unto Agnes Heath whom I formerly made my executrix £200.'" Witnessed 2 May, 37 Elizabeth. James X Gardiner.

Proved by Thomas Brown, notary public, proxy for the executor named.

I now return to Rauffe's brother :—

IV. WILLIAM ABNETT (son of John). He, as stated in the 1663-4 Visitation, and in Rauffe's Will, was a Barrister of Gray's Inn, and it is thus that we are able to identify Rauffe and his two sisters as children of John Abnett. The Visitation states that he married Anne, daughter of John Holt of Madeley, which is doubtless true but he evidently married again, for his Will speaks of his wife Ellen. In 1615 he acquired a small estate in Bemersley and elsewhere from Ralph Sneyd the elder and Ralph Sneyd the younger.<sup>1</sup> It is a curious thing that in 1664 the date of his death should have been remembered only as "about 1634" for he died in 1628, his Will being dated 3rd June, 1628, and proved at Lichfield 5th October, 1628. The following is an abstract :—

William Abnet of Audeley, Esquier. To be buried in decent manner in the chancell of the parish church of Audeley nere to the place where my

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, New Series, Vol. IV, p. 90.



father was buried. To wyffe Ellen all my lands in Norton upon the Moores and my message in Audeley extending to Halmar end called Wynbrook House, and two leasowes or pastures called "Barley crofte" and "the lower Smithie Hill" for life. Provided that if my son and heir apparent Thomas Abnet assure her within one year of my decease lands of the yearly value of £13 6s. 8d. for life in lieu of her said jointure and dower, this devise shall be void. She is also to have £20, in six yearly payments, in lieu of her reasonable third part of my goods and chattels.

To Frauncis Capps, clarke, Vicar of Wolstanton and William Kelsall, clarke, Vicar of Audeley and their successors, the pasture called "over Smithie Hill" in Audeley for the benefit of the poor of Wolstanton Audeley and Betteley.

James Blower of Audeley, milner, son of Randulphe Bloore, deceased, holds tenements as to which there has been an award in writing made by Randall Whitough of Bignall End, yeoman.

To every of my godchildren 2s. 6d. To the heirs or executors of John Parratt of London, tailor, deceased, 40s. To every of my servants 5 shillings.

Four poor men, whereof William Couper, Isaac Broomall and Richard Penket to be three, "to wayte upon my corps to the Church on the day of my funeral which I will to be performed in the day time and not in the night, fiftie shillings to buy them black gownes."

Son Thomas Abnet to perform a deed with respect to Testator's wife's jointure, "which I did not remember at the beginning of this my present Will." My son Thomas Abnet, Executor.

Witnesses :—Robert Corke, John Wearam, Thomas Braddocke. Inventory taken 5th October, 1628.

Ellen, the (second) wife of William Abnet was doubtless the Ellen Abnett, widow, of Careswall, of whom Administration was granted at Lichfield 16th November, 1639, to John Parker of Careswall, yeoman, "nepoti ex matre"; he, and Elizeus Froggatt of Lichfield, joining in the bond. Her Inventory describes her as of Roughcoate in Careswall; and includes :—

Gould and silver in her custody £3 10s.; two silke girdles and Ribbon and stockings 10s.; three yards of cloth and two old hatts 8s.; hempe and flaxe 3s. 4d., etc., etc. Monies owing to her by George Parker £32; by Thomas Braddock sen'r £11; by Thomas Braddock jun'r £9; by Henrie Kinge £22; A silver salt and spoones which Thomas Braddock sen'r hath in his handes £4 10s. Total, £87 3s. 4d.

Prizers :—Robert Parker, John X Watson.

I cannot at present establish her identity: "nepoti" may mean "nephew or grandson," but even if I were certain which, I could not be sure that John Parker, yeoman of Caverswall, was

related to George Parker the Esquire of Park Hall, Caverswall, ancestor of the Earls of Macclesfield. It seems likely, considering Ellen's loan to "George Parker," though this John does not appear in the printed pedigrees of the Macclesfield family. There was however a Parker family of Audley who appeared at the 1663-4 Visitation, and I must content myself by saying that to one or other of these Parker families Ellen Abnett was probably related either by marriage or descent.

Apparently William Abnett had no other issue than :—

V. THOMAS ABNETT of Audley, born about 1590. The Visitation states that he married Margaret daughter of Thomas Doughty of "Lorne," co. Worcester. There was a Doughty family at Martley in Worcestershire,<sup>1</sup> and I have discovered that the "Laughern" brook runs through the parish, so that apparently some estate in Martley now forgotten must have taken its name from the brook, of which we have I presume in "Lorne" the name phonetically spelt. Thomas Abnett and his wife Margery in 1617 joined in conveying four acres of pasture in Cannock to Richard Parkes,<sup>2</sup> but otherwise I have discovered nothing of his doings, and so far as I know, he took no prominent part in the stirring events through which he lived, and he died at the age of eighty-one toward the end of 1671. His Will, dated 5th September of that year, was proved at Lichfield on the 14th November, the following being an abstract :—

Thomas Abnet of Eardley End in the parish of Audley, Gentleman.— To dear and well-beloved wife Margery Abnet household goods in the dwelling-house with all plate, money excepted. If she die first, then one-third to son John's wife Elizabeth, one-third to daughter Ann Nichols, one-third to my two daughters Mary<sup>3</sup> and my daughter-in-law Katherine Abnet ; except the furnace pan and brewing vessels thereto belonging, and the malt mill, which I give to my son William's children.

Testator charges the Poole flat with the annual sum of 40s. during the life of his son John, to be paid to him yearly one month before the 25th of December, "to buy him cloathes with." To son John's eldest son, seven years' rent of Bul's tenement. To son John's daughter Hannah £40 in augmenta-

<sup>1</sup> Grazebrook's *Heraldry of Worcestershire*.

<sup>2</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, New Series, Vol. XII, p. 27.

<sup>3</sup> *I.e.*, his daughter Mary, and Mary the wife of his son Thomas.

tion of her portion, and to all the rest of son John's children £40 apiece, which Testator has already put in the hands of son Thomas ; they to have the money at their ages of 21.

To son William Abnet's four daughters £20 apiece. "The £50 he oweth me to be apart." To son William and his assigns the leases of Testator's lands in Audley. The reversion of Bul's Tenement, after the above mentioned seven years rent-charge, to my son William's second son William and his heirs, he paying to the said Thomas son of Johr £40.

Daughter Ann £200, to be paid her out of money in the hands of son Thomas.

The Residue of estate to son Thomas and daughters Mary Fenlow and Ann Nicholls equally.

Executors :—Son-in-law Michael Nicholls and loving freind Thomas Beech of "haughal wall." Sir John Bellot, Baronet, to settle any controversy.

Witnesses :—James Whitney, John Garrat, Ann A. Motershead, Ann Bradshaw, Thomas Hulme.

Inventory amounts to over £1,000—Bull's tenement valued at £400. Will proved by the Executors.

From the foregoing Will and from the 1663-4 Visitation, it is evident that Thomas and Margaret Abnett had the following issue :—

1. William Abnett, of whom next.
2. John Abnett of Nantwich, *see* Pedigree A.
3. Thomas Abnett of Stafford, *see* Pedigree B.
  1. Mary, married Richard Fenlow.
  2. Ann, married Michael Nicholls.

The eldest son—

VI. WILLIAM ABNETT of Poole, co. Chester, in 1664 ; matriculated at Magdalen Hall, Oxford, as son of Thomas Abnet of Audley, Gent., on 12th May, 1637, being then aged 18.<sup>1</sup> He was evidently the William Abnet of Poole disclaimed in the 1664 Visitation of Cheshire. This disclaiming was no doubt justified ; for an unexplained seal dating only from James I. was obviously of no authority. The *Gules, a spread-eagle between three pheons argent*, must have been devised for the family by someone who knew his business, for it does not apparently trespass on the rights of any other family. I know of no other authority for it

<sup>1</sup> Foster's *Alumni Oxonienses*.

than Plot's Map, from which it has doubtless been copied into Burke's *Armory*.

He married Catherine Shakerley, of Shakerley, Lancashire,<sup>1</sup> and after his father's death evidently returned to Audley, for he describes himself in his Will<sup>2</sup> as "of Eardley End in the parish of Audley, Gentleman." His wife, to whom he left his best nag and the use of the heir-loom at her jointure house at Pooles, can hardly have been the "Mrs Catherine Abnett of Stafford, Widow," whose Administration is given below, for the amount of property seems very small, while her son would have called himself "gentleman," and was then of Audley. I suppose therefore that the Catherine of the Administration was widow of some obscure member of the family.

Administration of Mrs Catherine Abnett of Stafford in the County of Stafford was granted November 21st, 1704, to William Abnett of Stafford, Mercer, the son of the deceased.

Sureties :—Thomas Rathbone of the City of Lichfield, confectioner, and Laurence Holmes of Lichfield, pin-maker. The Inventory amounts to £50 but is not dated, and no names of appraisers are given.

William and Catherine Abnett of Audley had the following issue :—

1. Thomas Abnett, aged 9 at the Visitation ; matriculated at Pembroke College, Oxford, 5th June, 1668, aged 15, but died young.
2. William Abnett, of whom next.
3. John Abnett, died young.
1. Catherine.<sup>3</sup>
2. Mary, living in 1683 being then named (in her father's Will) as Mary Thorley.
3. Anne.<sup>3</sup>
4. . . . a daughter<sup>3</sup> for her grandfather in his Will mentions "the four daughters" of his son William Abnet.

<sup>1</sup> She was, I suppose, the daughter of Sir Geoffrey Shakerley of Shakerley, the noted loyalist. He died in 1698, aged 78. She is mentioned in Burke's *Commoners*, but no husband is assigned to her.

<sup>2</sup> Dated November 24th, 1683, and proved by William Abnet his son and executor, April 30th, 1686, at Lichfield.

<sup>3</sup> One of these three must have married Humphrey Perry, whom their father in his Will calls "my son-in-law."

VII. WILLIAM ABNETT of Audley, Gentleman, was so described in 1704 on the matriculation of his son at Oxford. His father in his Will, dated 1683, calls him "my only son," which proves that the other sons Thomas and John had both died. Mr. A. L. Reade<sup>1</sup> identifies him with William Abnet of the parish of Audley, aged 23, who on 12th July, 1686, had a licence at Lichfield to marry Elizabeth Ford of Handsworth, aged 20, the marriage to take place at Handsworth or West Bromwich. This, agreeing very well with his place in the pedigree and with the age of his son in 1704, is I think correct. He must also have been the William Abnett, Esquire, who in 1695 bought the Manor of Titherington in Prestbury Parish, Cheshire, for £1,280, and sold it again before 1712 to Humphrey Perry of Stafford, Esquire, who would be his brother-in-law.<sup>2</sup> His marriage with Elizabeth Ford, whose first cousin Sarah Ford was mother of Doctor Samuel Johnson, has drawn the attention of Mr. A. L. Reade to the later pedigree of the Abnett family and that writer in his very exhaustive work, *The Reades of Blackwood Hill*, gives a number of Abnett Wills, etc., of the eighteenth century, the information from some of which I now make use of, to show the descendants of William Abnett. He undoubtedly had issue—

VIII. WILLIAM ABNETT, who as son of G. (*i.e.*, Gulielmus) Abnet of Audley, co. Staff., Gent., matriculated in 1704 at Trinity College, Oxford, being then aged 18. Of him I know nothing further, and assuming that his father was the William Abnett, husband of Elizabeth Ford, I expect that this younger William died without issue, at an early age.

I return for a moment to William Abnett (VII). His wife was the daughter and heiress of Henry Ford of Winson Green, Birmingham, which is close to Handsworth. In the latter parish she seems to have inherited a small property known as "the Manwoods," and here her husband appears to have settled, and ended his days. I presume that he had run through his Audley property, and I judge him to have been either unfortunate or a spendthrift. He, and no less than three

<sup>1</sup> *The Reades of Blackwood Hill*, pp. 130, 131, 273.

<sup>2</sup> *Earwaker's East Cheshire*, Vol. II, p. 337.

children died intestate, a sure sign of a decaying family. He died in 1721, for on November 24th in that year Administration of the effects of Mr. William Abnet of Handsworth, Gent., was granted at Lichfield to Charles Abnet of Handsworth, Gentleman, Elizabeth the widow having renounced administration.

From the subsequent proceedings it is evident<sup>1</sup> that William Abnett (VII) and his wife Elizabeth had the following issue:—

Charles Abnett of Handsworth, Gent., Administrator of his father in 1721; died intestate in 1730.

Robert Abnett of Stafford, Gentleman and Apothecary, Administrator of his brother Charles in 1730, and of his sister Elizabeth in 1724. Died intestate in 1733, when his widow Elizabeth administered his effects. She also in 1743 administered the estate of her father-in-law William Abnet so far as it was left unadministered by his son Charles.

Elizabeth Abnett of St. Mary's, Stafford, spinster. She died in 1724, and on September 29th in that year administration of her effects was granted to her brother Robert.

William and Elizabeth Abnett in all probability had also a son—

Humphrey Abnett; for Elizabeth Harriotts (a first cousin of the said Elizabeth Abnett), by her Will dated 1726, leaves to her "kinsman Humphrey Abnet £130 out of the money his father owed me by bonds or otherwise, and the rest of the money to her cousin Robert Abnet."

This is all I know concerning the direct line of the Abnetts of Audley.

#### PEDIGREE A.

THOMAS ABNETT (V) of Audley, had, as already mentioned, a (second) son. John Abnett, who is as described as of Namptwich, co. Chester, in the Visitation. I picture him as a

On the assumption (which I accept) that William Abnett (VII) of Audley and William Abnett of Handsworth (died 1721), were identical.

man of no great sense, for his father somewhat contemptuously leaves him an annuity of forty shillings "to buy him cloathes with"; and he seems to have indulged a taste for silly jingle, if (as seems probable) he named one of his sons "Abner." At Chester there is among the "Infra" Wills,<sup>1</sup> an Administration with inventory, dated 1697, of "John Abnett of Nantwich." This I have not examined, but it probably relates to this John or a son of the same name.

John married Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Barrett of Namptwich, and had issue—

Thomas Abnett named as the eldest son, in his grandfather's Will. He would, no doubt, be the Thomas Abnett of Namptwich, Gentleman, whose Will, dated April 19th, 1689, was proved at Chester September 11th following.

He leaves to neece Abigall Browne five shillings. The residue of personall estate to "my loving wife Elizabeth Abnett, she paying my just debts." She to be Executrix.

Witnesses :—Joseph Price, Ralph Lapley, Will. Meakin. Will proved by the Executrix.

Hannah Abnett, to whom her grandfather left £40 in augmentation of her portion.

Also other children mentioned as "all the rest of son John's children" in the Will of William Abnett their grandfather.

One of them probably was—

Abner Abnett, described as "of Namptwich, Gentleman," in the Administration papers of his son John, dated 1733, from which also it appears that Abner's wife Mary was also living, and that their issue was as follows :—

John Abnett of Stafford, Gentleman, died in 1733, of whose Administration I give the particulars at end.

William Abnett of Birmingham, co. Warwick, brass founder, living 1733.

<sup>1</sup> *I.e.*, Wills where the value of the property was below some very small amount.

Thomas Abnett of Nottingham, silk stocking weaver,  
living 1733.

Abner Abnett of Namptwich, Joyner, living 1733.

Ner Abnett of the City of London, silk stocking  
weaver, living 1733.

The following are the particulars of the Administration of John Abnett (son of Abner), to be found at Lichfield :—

On November 8th, 1733, Administration of the effects of John Abnett of Stafford, Gentleman, was granted at Cheadul, to Thomas Wood of Stafford, Gent., and Elizabeth Abnet daughter<sup>1</sup> of the deceased. With this is an agreement or deed dated August 15th, 1733, in which it is stated that John Abnett “departed this life in the town of Alnwick co. Northumberland about June 15th last Intestate without making Will, leaving Father, Mother, four brothers, and one sister (viz.) Abner and Mary, Father and Mother, William Thomas Abner and Ner, brothers, and Elizabeth, sister, who are all living. Now all the following of them (the parents and brothers as given above) renounce administration which they desire may be granted to Thomas Wood and the said sister Elizabeth.”

[The signature of the father is very shaky; the mother makes her mark. The signatures of William, Thomas, and Abner, junr., are good, especially the two latter. Ner does not sign, though a seal is affixed for him.

The father seals with a small, the others with a somewhat larger ring-seal representing a two-headed spread-eagle, but there is no trace of any pheons as borne in the arms the family had assumed.]

#### PEDIGREE B.

THOMAS ABNETT (V) of Audley had also a third son, VI*b*. THOMAS ABNETT of Stafford, so described in the Visitation, which states that he married Mary, daughter of John Hurdman of Coton, co. Stafford. His Will was proved in 1698–9, and hers in 1699, the following being abstracts :—

Thomas Abnett of Stafford, Gent. Dated July 22nd, 1697, and proved in P.C.C. (227 Lort) in 1698 or 1699.

To son Charles lands and house purchased of Mr. Tannson Talbutt, and a lease lately taken of the Right Hon. Lady Stafford, and a “Cottich” in Forebridge held by William Yates, and I foregive him a debt. To well-beloved wife Mary lands in Cotton Millwidge and Fradsall untill my said (*sic*) son Thomas shall pay her £400, then to him and his heirs, remainder equally between Charles Abnett my son, and Elizabeth Abnett and Ann Abnett my two daughters. Leases, including house where I and

<sup>1</sup> *Sic*, but should evidently be “sister.”



my son William Abnett dwell, to wife for life, for benefit of my two daughters, including farm held by Humfrey Gouldsmith and others, and leases at Amerton, and Wilbroton and her jointure house at Bourston. Son William has a lease of the house we now dwell in, for life. I desire that he may hold it, and that he and his brothers and sisters may live peaceably together as we have done. My wife Mary and son Thomas are to indemnify son William for any mortgage made of lands at Berrihill.<sup>1</sup> Unto my servant (*sic*) Margaret Twifford and Alice Thornbury £10, to be paid her (*sic*) in twelve months. And I desire my wife will be so good to the poor of Stafford to give fourscore poore house keepers 5 shillings a piece.

Executors:—Wife Mary and son Thomas. Witnesses:—John Webb, Thomas Webb, Margett × Twyford, Alis Thornbury.

Mary Abnett of Stafford, co. Stafford, Widow. Dated April 9th, 1698. Proved at Lichfield August 18th, 1699.

To all my children and grandchildren a guinea each for rings. Forasmuch as my dear husband made noe provision for my two daughters, but left the care of them to me, now I give to my two daughters Elizabeth and Ann the £400 which my said husband appointed my son Thomas to pay me out of the lands devised him at Coton Milwich and Frodswell. I also give to my said two daughters all other lands, etc., in which my husband gave me any interest, and all my goods, chattels, etc., and I make them my Executrixes.

Witnesses:—Richard Sneyd, Isaac Hawkins, Will. Hammersley and Edward Styche. Proved by both Executrixes.

From the foregoing Wills, and from the Visitation, it is evident that Thomas and Mary Abnett had the following issue:—

1. William Abnett, of whom presently.
2. Thomas Abnett, living 1664, and in 1698–9 when he proved his father's Will.
3. Charles Abnett, living 1664, to whom his father left property in Forebridge, Stafford. He is doubtless the Charles Abnett of Shifnall, of whose Will I here give an abstract which shows that he had property at Forebridge. The Will also mentions brother William Abnett, and is witnessed by "Ann Abnett," who is, no doubt, the daughter Ann whom Thomas and Mary

<sup>1</sup> Chetwynd, in his "Pirehill Hundred" (*Staff. Hist. Coll.*, N.S., XII), states that "the Royalty (*i.e.*, the Manor of Cublesdon), with part of Berryhill and one tenement in Maddershall, is purchased by Thomas Abnett of Stafford, mercer, now Lord of Cublesdon, 1680."

mention in their Wills. As shown by the Will, Charles Abnett married a wife named Sarah and had issue—

1. Anastatia Abnett, Executrix of her father.
2. Mary Abnett.

I know nothing more about Charles Abnett's daughters. The following is an abstract of his Will :—

Charles Abnett of Shifnall manor in co. Salóp, Gent.

To well-beloved wife Sarah, my messuage in the tenure of Nicholas Wyatt in the parish of Cannock for life, and certain lands called Parke and Parke Meadow for life ; remainder to daughter Anastatia Abnett, she paying her sister Mary Abnett £400. Green Fields in Cannock to daughter Anastatia, and also my house and lands in Rugeley. My lands at Fore-bridge in Castle Church Parish to my wife for life, and then to brother William Abnett for the benefit of my daughter Mary. All my monies and stock to my daughter Anastatia, and she Executrix.

Sealed with a seal of the Arms of Abnett—a *spread-eagle between three theons*, and signed with a good signature.

Witnesses :—Ann Abnett, Tho. Byrdall, Elizabeth Role, John × Chesterton.

Proved at Newport by the Executrix April 23rd, 1707.

1. Mary Abnett, mentioned in the Visitation as having died young.
2. Elizabeth Abnett.
3. Ann Abnett.

VII*b*. WILLIAM ABNETT [son of Thomas (VI*b*)] was of Stafford at the date (1697) of his father's Will, and in 1727 when he made his own Will, but apparently was also of Burston Hall,<sup>1</sup> Sandon, which is perhaps what he calls in his Will his wife's "jointure house at Bourston." He married a wife named Elizabeth whose surname, I suppose, was Staunton, for in her Will (dated 1737, proved 1749), she desires to be buried in her father Staunton's grave in St. Mary's Church, Stafford. William Abnett evidently died in 1728, his Will being proved in May of that year. He had issue—

<sup>1</sup> A. S. Reade's *The Reades of Blackwood Hill*, p. 131, where are set out abstracts of the Wills which I quote as authorities for the account of this William and his family : Burke's *Commoners* also calls him "of Burston Hall, Sandon."

1. Thomas Abnett, who as "son of William Abnett of Stafford Town, Gentleman," matriculated at Oriol College, Oxford, June 26th, 1703. He was admitted to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1710, and therefore wrote himself "Esquire" in his Will, which was dated 1736, proved 1737-8. So far as I know, Thomas did not marry, and he plainly had no children.

Probably also

2. . . . Abnett, a son, who had issue a daughter:—  
Elizabeth Abnett, who as Elizabeth Abnet of Stafford, Spinster, by her Will dated September, 1741, and proved January, 1741-2, left her messuages and lands in Blyth, Notts, and in Wem and Newport, Salop, to her cousin Elizabeth Swinnerton.

There must have been something peculiar about this Elizabeth Abnett, for her grandfather and grandmother leave the residues of their personalty to her cousin Elizabeth Swinnerton, and her uncle Thomas is content that she shall share his real and personal estate with her Swinnerton cousins. Perhaps she was a hopeless invalid.

1. Mary Abnett, married December 26th, 1712, Thomas Swinnerton of Butterton, Esquire, and died in 1769, aged 86. For an account of her descendants *see* Canon Bridgeman's "Account of the Family of Swynnerton" (*Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. VII, II, 140-144).

I have also found at Chester the Will (dated 3rd, and proved August 24th, 1771) of William Abnett of the City of Chester, Apothecary. He leaves "All to my dear wife Mary Abnett," and makes her Executrix. His signature is bold, and he seals with a seal of arms:—*Gules, fretty, on a canton two ears of wheat impaling . . . three roundels.*

Witnesses: H<sup>n</sup> Whishaw, Edw. Massie.

Proved by the Executrix, his widow.

I cannot say who this William was. He may have been descended from Robert Abnett the apothecary of Stafford son of William (VII). The seal used by the Testator was evidently

that of the witness Whishaw, for with the canton azure and the wheat ears gold, the former coat is that of Whyshaw of Lees, Cheshire,<sup>1</sup> a family about which I have no information.

From 1771 to 1830 I have no information about the Abnetts ; and as will be evident from these notes, with the exception of possible descendants of Abner Abnett, the various lines of the family seem to have ended in daughters. In 1830 the name emerges for a moment from obscurity, Mr. B. Abnett being described<sup>2</sup> as an influential member of the "Political Union" then formed for Walsall. In 1908 I learned that Mr. Thomas Abnett was the King's Swan Master for the Thames. About the same time, I was staying at St. George's Vicarage, Darlaston (S. Staffs.), and happening to discuss with the Vicar the curious manner in which names disappear from districts where they have been plentiful, I instanced the Abnetts. He informed me that a house within a few yards of the Vicarage was occupied by a man named John Abnett, who is in very humble circumstances. At present the name does not occur in *Kelly's Directory* either among the "Private Residents" or the "Farmers" of Staffordshire.

In this account of the Abnett Family I have used the only sixteenth century, and the (I believe) only seventeenth century, Abnett Will in P.C.C., also all the sixteenth and seventeenth century Wills of the name at Lichfield, together with the eighteenth century Wills abstracted by Mr. Reade. My impression is that there are few if any more eighteenth century Abnett Wills in P.C.C. or at Lichfield. I believe also that at Chester there are no other Abnett Wills than those I have referred to, and there are none whatever at Worcester.

I have accounted for all the Abnetts recorded in Foster's *Alumni Oxonienses*, but I have made no use of Parish Registers or Church Monuments. It will be seen therefore that something still remains to be done if the history of the family is to be perfected ; but so far as my information goes, I may adapt somewhat a famous sentence, and say, "This is all, and perhaps more than all that is worth telling about the Abnetts."

<sup>1</sup> Morant and Papworth.

<sup>2</sup> Willmore's *History of Walsall*, p. 405.

## 3. ADAMS.

“William Adams of Chatwall” was disclaimed under Pirehill Hundred, north-east part, in the 1663-4 Visitation. So described, it might appear that the place intended was not Great Chatwell in Moreton (formerly part of Gnosall) which is in Cuttlestone Hundred, but Chatcull in Croxton (formerly part of Eccleshall) which is in North Pirehill Hundred. As however in this same Visitation “William Adams of Gnowsall” was disclaimed (correctly) in Cuddleston Hundred, I am disposed to think that the previous entry under Pirehill Hundred was a clerical error, and should have been deleted.

Such incomplete search as I have made, has not brought to light the Will of this William Adams of Gnosall, and no Adams Will was proved in Gnosall Peculiar before 1660. The following Will<sup>1</sup> however is probably that of a kinsman of the disclaimed William.

Robert Adams, of Great Chatwall, in the parish of Gnosall, co. Stafford, Gent. Dated 20 October, 1716. Proved in P.C.C. (126 Whitfield) 15 July, 1717.

In the name of God, amen. Being somewhat indisposed in body, etc., I give unto my eldest son, Thomas Adams, one guinea piece of gold; and unto my daughter Elizabeth Salt one guinea piece of gold. The rest of my estate I give unto my six younger children, Katherine Adams, Sarah Adams, Hannah Adams, Mary Adams, Ann Adams, and John Adams, equally at their severall ages of twenty-one or marriage. I appoint my brother John Adams of Shrewsbury, ironmonger, and my son-in-law, Thomas Salt of Flashbrook, Gent., Executors. Witnesses: Elizabeth Willoughby, John Jollicorse (? Jellicorse), Robert Moreton.

Proved by the Executors.

“Adams” was in early days a fairly common name in this part of the country, and there were consequently a great number of Adams Wills proved at Lichfield during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. It is therefore impossible to do more than indicate a few directions in which research might be made by those interested in Staffordshire families bearing this surname.

<sup>1</sup> The abstract contributed by Mr. P. W. L. Adams of Wolstanton.

It is of course known that the present Earl of Lichfield, whose ancestor assumed the surname of Anson, comes by paternal descent from an Adams family, and the name is therefore of special interest to Staffordshire genealogists. As, however, this family was of Shropshire extraction, its early history is rather outside my scope, and I content myself with giving the two following abstracts.<sup>1</sup>

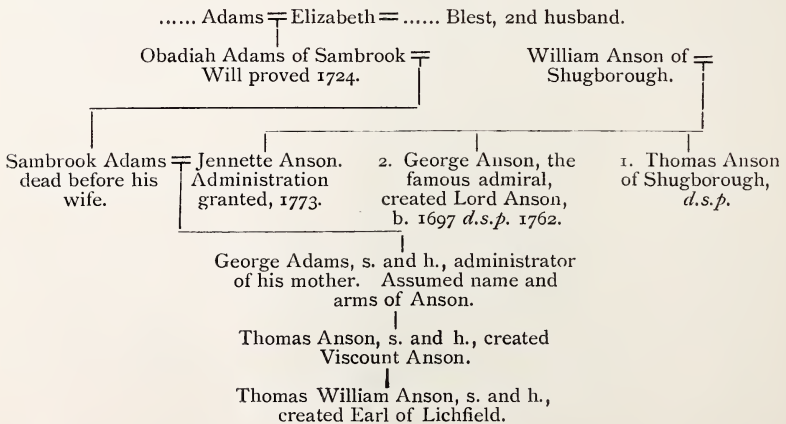
Obadiah Adams, of Sambrooke, co. Salop, Gent. Dated 7th July, 1723. Proved at Lichfield, 16th October, 1724.

I give my messuages and lands purchased from William Sambrooke and his father George Sambrooke, and from William Cooper, and his two daughters, and lying in Sambrooke and in the parishes of Cheswardine, Henstock, Edgmond, and Chetwynd to my son Sambrooke Adams. My leasehold lands, etc., in Child's Ercall, Ellerton, and Longslow to my said son Sambrooke. To my daughter Mary Adams, £200. My executor to well and sufficiently provide for my mother Elizabeth Blest during her life. The residue to my said son Sambrooke Adams and he Executor. Overseer: my kinsman Henry Jervis of the Hill, Gent. Witnesses: James Williamson, William Glover, Tho. Moreton.

Proved by the Executor.

Jennette Adams of Shugborough, co. Stafford, Widow. 6th March, 1773. Administration granted (in P.C.C.) to George Adams, her natural and lawful son.

The following pedigree shows the bearing of the two foregoing abstracts upon the Earl of Lichfield's ancestry:—



<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*

The Records of Staffordshire during the Feudal Period are not very illuminating as to the origin of any Adams families. A suit occurring as far back as 1227<sup>1</sup> certainly makes it appear possible that Adam de Wilbrighton might be the ancestor of an Adams family; and Wilbrighton, like Chatwall, is in Gnosall parish, but subsequent Subsidy Rolls, give no support to the conjecture.

These notes will show that there were in early times many families of the surname established in various parts of the county, and their histories might be illustrated and their number increased by the plentiful store of references in the *Staffordshire Historical Collections*.

So far as I know, however, the only Adams family of any note and undoubtedly of Staffordshire origin is that of the parishes of Wolstanton, Burslem and Stoke-on-Trent, etc., which has now for some three to four centuries been connected with the industry of the potteries.

#### ADAMS OF WOLSTANTON, ETC.

A very full account of this family during the eighteenth century has appeared in the pages of *William Adams, an old English Potter*, by William Turner, F.S.S., and the earlier part of the pedigree is given in Burke's *Landed Gentry*. Further researches however have been made by Mr. P. W. L. Adams, who contributes to these notes a number of Will Abstracts.

The name of William Adams appears on the Court Roll of Tunstall in 1360, and it is a reasonable conjecture that his ancestor may have been that William Adam who with Ranulph and Henry de Weggewode, Andrew Snedde, Richard de Brochuse, Alexander de Chaderley, Richard Sparry and many others, was certified as a tenant of Thomas de Audley at Tunstall in 1308.<sup>2</sup> Ralph Adams, in 1405, and William de Adams,<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. IV, p. 54.

<sup>2</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, N.S., Vol. XI, p. 262.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. P. W. L. Adams, who is my authority for the particulars not derived from the *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, finds the name under this curious form more than once. It almost seems like a translation of the colloquial "Bill o' Adams" such as may be heard to this day in Yorkshire or Lancashire.

in 1405 and 1417, Thomas and Richard Adams, in 1408, Richard and William Adams in 1431, all appear on the Court Rolls of Tunstall, and probably represent successive generations of one family.

The first, however, from whom descent can definitely be traced is :—

RICHARD ADAMS of Burslem and Tunstall, who owned property at Snead, The Smallthornes, and Hulton, and who is shown by a seventeenth century law-suit (*Bailey v. Wedgwood*) to have held the same properties as the Nicholas Adams mentioned below. Richard is mentioned on the Tunstall Court Rolls in 1487 and 1497. Mr. P. Adams thinks that Richard was the father, but dates make it more likely that he was the grandfather, of—

NICHOLAS ADAMS of Burslem, Snead, etc., who may be identified with the Nicholas Addams, an able man, with a bill, who appears at Tunstall in the 1539 Muster Roll. Unquestionably he would be the Nicholas Adams of Sneade in Burslem who appears in the 1563 Subsidy Roll; and it would be he who as “Nicholas Addam” witnessed in December, 1562, the Will of Thomas Addams of Burslem.<sup>1</sup>

The following is an abstract of Nicholas Adams’ Will which was dated November 22nd, 1567, and proved May 18th, 1568.

Nycholas Addams, of Sneade, in the parish of Burslem, co. Stafford. Dated November 22nd, 1567.

To be buried in the Church of Burslem. To Rychard Addams, my eldest sonne, certain heirlooms, he paying to Elizabeth or Jo . . . (hi)s yonger sisters 20s. My said son, Richard, to have a convenient place in the colle myne called The Small Rowe on the oversight of workmen to get and carrie wome<sup>2</sup> fowre wayne loodes of colles at his own cost during his life to the only use of his owne fyer if the said myne will serve thereto.

To Wylliam Addams, my son, my part of the lease and copie of the colle myne called the Small Rowe excepted and reserved<sup>3</sup> to his brother Richard.

<sup>1</sup> Abstract, No. 7.

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.*, Home.

<sup>3</sup> *i.e.*, I suppose, subject to the reservation in favour of Richard in respect of the four loads of coal.



Elizabeth, my wyfe, to have sufficient colle for her own fire at Sneyd. My son, William, not to sell or assign the said colle myne, or any part thereof, except to one of his brothers or sisters. To Thomas Addams, my son, £6 13s. 4d.

The residue of my goods to be divided into three parts : one part to pay my debts, etc., one other to go to Elizabeth, my wife, and the other to be divided between Thomas and William, my sons, and Elizabeth and Johan, my daughters. My sons and daughters to have their legaciés at eighteen.

To Johan Sherard and Margaret, her sister, a lamb each. To the children of Annes Placket<sup>1</sup> 4*l.* each. To the church of Wybunburye, 20*l.* I give one planke of wood to the mending of the Fowle Ley Bridge at Dakyns, and one other plank to mend the Brydge at the Fowle Ley gowing from Shelton to Penkhyll.

To Elizabeth Fernyhawghe one ewe hogg. To Rycharde Heath, of Mylne Street, in Leake, one ewe. To a daughter of Richard Leacrofte's one lambe. To a daughter of Thomas Mosse, one lambe.

Executors :—Elizabeth, my wife, and Richard, my son.

Overseers :—Rycharde Leacrofte, Thomas Grindley, and William Leigh.

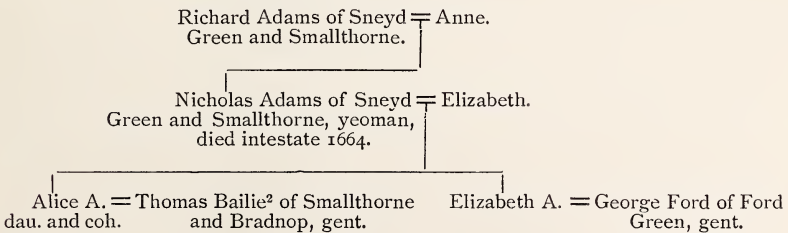
Witnesses :—John Burdeslem, William Leigh and Thomas Handley.

Inventory, dated April 22nd, 10 Elizabeth (1568)—amount not given.

Appraisers :—John Burslem, Henry Brookes, John Rowley, Thomas Hanley. Will proved by both Executors.

The foregoing Will, showing that his children were under eighteen years old, makes it probable that Nicholas was of no great age when he died, and was more probably grandson than son of Richard. It shows also that Nicholas had, besides daughters, the following issue :—

- i. Richard Adams, of whose branch Mr. P. Adams gives the following pedigree :—



<sup>1</sup> ? Flacket.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Bayly, the grandson of this marriage, went to law with the Wedgwoods concerning Alice's inheritance, and the record of the suit supplies much evidence as to the Adams pedigree. *Hist. Wedgwood Family*, p. 290, *et seq.*

2. William Adams—of whom hereafter.
3. Thomas Adams, of Burslem, Master-potter, whose male line is traced down to Joseph Adams, also a Master-potter of Burslem, who had a son Joseph, and a daughter Martha. She was baptized in March, 1723, and marrying her distant cousin Edward Adams, of Bagnall, became the mother of William Adams the eminent Staffordshire potter.

William Adams (second son of Nicholas) is claimed by Mr. Adams as "the earliest English Master-potter yet recorded." He seems to have sold the "Small Rowe" or some other coal mine to his brother Richard, for the latter was sued in Chancery, by Richard Leacroft, evidently the Overseer of Nicholas Adams Will, as is shown by the following pleadings:—

May 11th, 1584. To the Right Honorable Sir Thomas Bromley, Knighte, lorde Chauncelor of Ingelnod. Moste humbly sheweth and complayneth unto your honorable Lordshipp your poore and dayly Orator, Richard Leacrofte, of Aston, nere to Stone, co. Stafford, husbandman. That where<sup>1</sup> one William Adams of [blank] in the said county was seised in fee of and in one colle myne or colle delfe in Tunstall about fourteen yeres last past for twenty pounds to be paid by one Richard Adams, elder brother of the said William, and your orator became bounden for the trewe payment of the same. That the said Richard hath not paid nor discharged the said twenty pounds according to his faythful promise, but hath suffered your orator to be molested and urged to pay the same to the said William, etc. He prays a writ of subpœna.

The Answer of Richard Adames.

The sayde defendand saith that true it is the said William conveyed the said cole myne to him and his heirs in consideration of ten pounds only of which every penny whereof this defendand payed, and that the said promise (if any there were) is performed by the said payment in lawe and consciens, etc. Denies that he hath suffered the complainant to be molested and urged to paye the same, or any part thereof. Prays to be dismissed with his reasonable costs and charges in this behalf wrongfully sustened.

Mr. Adams states that William Adams died in January, 1616-17, and that the following is an abstract of his Will which was dated January 12th, 14 James I. (1617) and proved at Lichfield, March 30th, following:—

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.*, "Whereas."

William Adames, of Burslem, co. Stafford, Potter.

To be buried in the churchyard of Burslem. All goods to two sons, John Adams and Thomas Adams.

Executor :—My friend, Gilbert Gallamore.

Witnesses :—William Bourne, Thomas Addams, Junior, and Marie Burslem. There is a debt owing from Thomas Malkin of Longson (*sic*). Inventory, dated January 31st, 1616-17 : amount £20 2s. 6d. Appraisers : John Turner and John Payne.

I cannot say on what grounds Mr. Adams identifies this Testator with William, son of Nicholas, but the amount of the Inventory seems small for one who began life as a colliery proprietor, and it appears to me possible that the Testator might have been—

- (1) "William Addams my sonne" named in the Will<sup>1</sup> (dated November 20th, 1577) of William Addams of Bagnall.
- (2) William Adams, son of Thomas Adams, of Burslem, who proved his father's Will (not now extant) in 1608.

None of these four appears in Mr. Adams' pedigrees of the several lines of Adams who flourished in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries.

It is also within the bounds of possibility that Nicholas' son William was—

- (1) William Adames, of Norton in the Moors, whose Administration<sup>2</sup> was granted in 1613.
- (2) William Addames of Newport, Salop, whose Administration<sup>3</sup> was granted in 1626.

I speak of possibilities ; but (1) is improbable because there seems to have been a family of Adams at Bemersley in Norton to which this William probably belonged, though he does not appear in Mr. Adams' pedigree. As to (2), the date seems too late, for all this William's children were minors. On the other hand the surety for the administration bond, and an appraiser of the goods was Thomas Mosse, of Eccleshall, Yeoman, whose

<sup>1</sup> See No. 8 of the abstracts given hereafter.

<sup>2</sup> See Abstract No. 11.

<sup>3</sup> See Abstract No. 12.

name recalls the Thomas Mosse mentioned in the Will of Nicholas. And before I leave Nicholas and his sons, I may note that the two planks bequeathed by Nicholas Adams for repairing the "Fowle Ley bridge at Dakyns" and the other bridge at Fowle Ley, would seem to show that he was interested in that neighbourhood. When, therefore, we find William Adams, of Wolstanton, Free Mason, giving by his will,<sup>1</sup> dated 1629, "the lease of my house in foule lee and Randle Dakins rent, we are justified in thinking that probably the connection between the two Testators was close.

William Adams, the Testator of 1616-17, had, as shown by his Will, two sons—

1. John Adams—of whom hereafter.
2. Thomas Adams, whom Mr. Adams identifies as the Thomas Adams buried at Burslem in 1641.

John Adams is identified by Mr. Adams with the Reeve of Tunstall Manor Court in 1616, who was so named, and further as the Testator of the following Will :—

John Addams, of Hulton, in the paroch of Burslem, co. Stafford, Yeoman, Dated . . . 1641, and proved September 17th, 1641.

To be buried in the churchyard of Burslem under the yew tree there.

To Thomas Addams, my son, all my smith's tools, etc. (except, etc.) and the weane<sup>2</sup> timber which is at Sneyde Greene, at my son William Addams' house, which I give to Thomas Addams, son of William Addams. To Elizabeth Addams, Anne Addams, Margrett Addams, and Isabell Addams, daughters of the said Thomas Addams, all my household goods within my house at Birches head. To Mary Addams, wife of the said Thomas Addams two kine. To Thomas Addams my son, a mare, etc.

Thomas Addams, son of William Addams, £20 13s. 4d. Mary Addams daughter of William Addams, £10. William Addams my son 20s. The Residue to Thomas Addams my son, and he Executor.

Witnesses :—John Machin, John Addams, John Bett.

Inventory dated 3 June, 1641: amount £182 11s. 0d.: appraisers, Thomas Brett, John Martin and John Addams.

Proved by the Executor.

From the foregoing Will it is evident that the Testator John Adams or Addams had issue two sons—

<sup>1</sup> See Abstract No. 13, also No. 6 and note on p. 247.

<sup>2</sup> *I.e.*, Wain.

1. William Addams, of whom hereafter.
2. Thomas Addams, from whom Mr. Adams traces out numerous descendants, including Benjamin Adams, Mayor of Newcastle-under-Lyme in 1755-6.

William Addams (son of John) was of Sneyde Green, as mentioned in his father's Will in 1641, being probably then a widower, as his wife is not mentioned in the Will, while Mary, the wife of his brother Thomas, is mentioned. The Will also mentions William's son Thomas and daughter Mary. It is, therefore, apart from the "dd" used in both cases, reasonably safe<sup>1</sup> to identify him with the Testator of the following Will, who was of Sneyd Green, and had a son Thomas and a daughter Mary :—

William Addams of Sneyd Green, co. Stafford, Yeoman.

Dated 31 October, 20 Charles II. (1668).

To Katherine Addams my wife for life an annuity of £5 payable out of my message, etc., in Milton, co. Stafford.

To Thomas Addams and John Addams my sons and Mary Smith my daughter 12*d.* each.<sup>2</sup> To Samuel Addams, Jonathan Addams, Ralph Addams, Richard Addams and Edward Addams my sons my message and lands in Milton, they paying the above-mentioned annuity to my wife. The Residue (except my household goods at Milton) to my wife Katherine Addams, in trust that she shall give Katherine Addams my daughter and William Addams my son part thereof. My goods at Milton to my sons, Samuel, Jonathan, Ralph, Richard and Edward Addams.

Executrix :—Katherine my wife. Witnesses :—Tho. Wood, Alice Wood, and Daniel Nailer. George Forde and Tho. Forde testify that the copy of the Will is correct. Inventory dated 31 October, 1676 : amount £97 4*s.* 0*d.* : appraisers, Geo. Forde, Tho. Addams and Hugh Forde.

Proved by Catherine Addams of Sneyd Green for the education of Richard and Edward Addams, minors, children of the deceased ; Surety, William Addams of Sneyd Green, yeoman.

William Addams' widow Katherine survived until 1702, but made her Will in 1692, one of the witnesses being Jonathan

<sup>1</sup> In agreement with Mr. Adams.

<sup>2</sup> I think that a child was often "cut off with a shilling," not as a sign of displeasure, but to show that he had not been overlooked. Whether a child, if entirely unnoticed in a parent's will, could at some period of English history claim a child's portion, I do not know ; but if so the shilling would prevent any claim based on a Testator's forgetfulness.

Addams, evidently her son, who, however, when he was one of the appraisers of her property in 1702, gives his surname as "Adams," as also did his brother Edward.

Although there is nothing on the face of the Will to prove it, I have no doubt that Mr. Adams is right in stating that this Edward was the Edward Adams of Bagnall, gentleman, who made his Will on April 6th, 1727. In it he mentions no other children than his son William Adams and a daughter Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Hulme.

From this William, Mr. P. W. L. Adams of Moreton House, Wolstanton, whose authority I quote in giving this account of his family, is descended, but it appears that the above Edward had also a son named Edward, baptized on February 5th, 1709, who, as already stated, married his distant cousin Martha Adams. By her, Edward the son became father of the eminent potter, William Adams of Greengates, Tunstall, for whom see the *Dictionary of National Biography*.

#### ADAMS OF BURSLEM.

Mr. Adams' notes and the Will abstracts<sup>1</sup> given hereafter show that there was an Adams family owning land called "Longcroft" in Burslem, and also property at Wolstanton, Forsbrook, etc. To this family belonged the Rev. Thomas Adams, incumbent of Rushton in 1639, and Vicar of Trentham and Blurton. He died in 1667, and at the Restoration he gave a sun-dial to Blurton Church, on which his initials were carved and may still be seen. His sister Margery married Ralph Colclough, another sister Lydia married Ralph Edge, and he himself married Ellen, daughter of John Walter of Blurton.

From Robert Adams, brother of the Reverend Thomas, descended four generations of the name who were of the Brick House, Burslem; and of these the third, John, married in 1747 Dorothy Murhall, daughter of William Murhall of Bagnall Hall, a Justice of the Peace, and had a son William Adams, who was also of Cobridge. This William married Mary, daughter and heir of John Bourne of Newcastle-under-Lyme, and by her had a large family, who all died without issue, Mary the youngest child surviving to 1869.

<sup>1</sup> Nos. 16-19.

## ADAMS OF BEMERSLEY.

On the authority of the Court Rolls of Tunstall, Mr. Adams states that there was a Thomas Adams of Bemersley, in the parish of Norton on the Moors, probably a kinsman of Richard and William Adams, who were of Tunstall in 1431. In the sixteenth century several of the name occur, and in 1606 Thomas Adams of Bemersley and Chatterley desires in his Will "to be buried at Norton among my ancestors." His son Thomas married Catherine, widow of John Rowley, jun., of Ridgway, daughter of William Ford of The Mosse (who died 1584), by Margery, daughter of John Bowyer of Knypersley.<sup>1</sup> No issue of this marriage is shown, but the family seems to have been carried on by a nephew, Thomas Adams, who married Anne Meare, and by her had a son Stephen, who married Dorothy, daughter of Thomas Wedgwood of Mow Cop in Biddulph.

Mr. Adams also shows William Adams,<sup>2</sup> the freemason, of Wolstanton, as descended from another branch of the Bemersley family, but I cannot see that the connection, however probable, is proven.

More probable is the relationship of John Adams (Addam) of the Bruckehouse, whose Will,<sup>3</sup> dated 1544, is witnessed by "John Adams (Addam) of Bemersley." "The Brookhouse" is in Wolstanton, and Mr. Adams considers that Adam del Bruggehous of Tunstall, in the 1327 Subsidy Roll, was of Brookhouse. But "Brugge" is old English for "Bridge," and I must leave the matter to be fought out by local antiquaries.

I have now given the best epitome that time and space will allow of the results of Mr. Adams' researches, and I append to it some of the more interesting of the many Will abstracts he has collected in the course of his inquiries—

- (1) William Addams of Bursley in the parish of Stoke-upon-Trent. 6 November, 1534. Administration granted at Lichfield to Elene the Relict. Inventory dated 3 October, 1534: amount £6 2s. 0d.: appraisers, Richard Colclug and Thomas . . . lyng.

<sup>1</sup> *History of the Wedgwood Family*, p. 75.

<sup>2</sup> Testator of Abstract No. 13.

<sup>3</sup> Abstract No. 6.

- (2) Thomas Addams of the paroch of Bursalem. Dated 21 December, 1534; proved at Lichfield 26 January, 1534-5.

To be buried in the churchyard of Burslem. To Jone my daughter a pott, etc. To Thomas Add . . . son of Rycharde Addams a pot, etc. "I give to Marget" . . . To Wylliam a calfe. Ground taken of James Sumner and John Croket, also land changed with Thomas Cartelage. Debts owing to Marget Addams and Rychard Denyell.

Executor:—Margett my wife. Overseers:—Thomas Bursalem and Richard Denyell. Witnesses:—Sir Thomas "with oder mo."

Inventory dated 15 December, 1534: amounts to 4 marks 7s. 8*d*. Appraisers: Thomas Bursalem and Rychard Denyell.

Proved by the Relict.

- (3) Rafe Addams of the paroch of Burssalem. Dated 22 October, 15 . . . Proved at Lichfield 26 January, 1534-5.

"paid to mayster Rycharde Colclug of hulstenton<sup>1</sup> four yeres rent for a clowse of gronde saving 2s. 4*d*. behynd" . . . Wylliam Addams . . . Debts owing to Wylliam Medulton, Marget Doccy, Roger Henshaw, Jhon Handeley, Agnes Handley, Thomas Hethe.

Inventory dated 13 October, 1534: amount vi marke xis. viii*d*.

Proved by Agnes the Relict and John Croket.

Witness: Sir Thomas Heath.<sup>2</sup>

- (4) Thomas Adams of the parish of Stowke-on-Trent. Dated 15 December, 1536. Proved at Lichfield 23 November, 1536.

To be buried in the churchyard of St. Peter's of Stowke-on-Trent. To the service of S. Nicholas and S. Katherine 2s. To our Ladye service at Stowke 12*d*. To Buckenall Chapel 12*d*. To Burselem Stepull my best iackett. To our Lady service of Norton Church 12*d*. The above legacies to remain in the hands of Jeffery Turnock. To Wylliam Lee a panne after the decease of Agnes my wyfe. My Executors to receve from John Chrockett of Burslem 13s. 8*d*. that "wose" John Chrocketts the elders and give the same to John Baddeley and Agnes Adams. Residue to Agnes Adams my wife.

Executors:—the said Agnes my wife and Thomas Lee my "son-yn-lay." Overseers:—Nicholas Adams and John Radewood. Witnesses:—John Handeley, Wylliam Radewod and Wylliam Handeley. Debts owing from Thomas Burne of Chesterton, Geffery Turnock and Sur Thomas Campston.

Inventory dated 22 October, 1536: amount £3 8s. 8*d*.: appraisers:—Wylliam Lee, Wylliam Handley and Wylliam Radewod.

Proved by Thomas "Leye" and power reserved for Agnes the Relict.

[Mr. Adams informs me that these "Handeleys" were Hanleys, so-called from Hanley, anciently Handley, Green. I suggest for consideration whether this Nicholas Adams

<sup>1</sup> *I.e.*, I suppose "Wolstanton," called in the dialect "Hoositon."

<sup>2</sup> Probably the curate of Burslem.



represents an intervening generation between Nicholas, the Testator of 1568 with his young family, and Richard Adams who occurs in 1487.]

(5) Margaret Addams of the Paroch of Burslem, Widow. Dated May 5th. . . . Proved July 12th, 1540.

To be buried in the churchyard of Burslem. To Margaret Addams a gowne, etc., and also the best gurdle after the deth of my daughter. To William Addams a now<sup>1</sup> and a lombe. To John a now hogg. To . . . Adams a shete. To Elyn Astebury a carchaff (kerchief).

Executors :— . . . and Wylliam Denyell.

Witnesses :—Thomas Heth, Rychard Glover and Marget Medultun. Inventory dated July 3rd, 1540: amount £6 2s. 10d.: appraisers Thomas Rowley and Thomas Lee.

Proved at Lichfield by Rafe Hude and William Danyall.

[Testatrix is evidently the widow of Thomas Addams the testator of (2).]

(6) John Addam of the Bruckehouse<sup>2</sup> in the parish of Wolstanton. Dated April 23rd, 1544. Proved at Lichfield June 27th, 1544.

To be buried in the parish church of Wolstanton.

To the service of our blessed Lady at the paroch Church 16d. To the service of S. Nicholas there 2s. To the service of S. John at Thursfeld, one heyfer to be placed in the hands of Stephene Thursfeld and the said Stephen to pay one-third of the profit to the said service. To the making of the long bridge<sup>3</sup> 3s. 4d. To Agnes Addam and Emme Addam my brother's daughters 20s. between them. Elizabeth Thursfeld and Ales Thursfeld my sister's daughters to have 13s. 4d. which I have of theirs, and sufficient of my own goods to make it 20s. Johann Addam my wyfe to have my tacke which I dwell in for her life and then Stephan Thursfeld my servant to have it. To Margaret Thursfeld mother of the said Stephen 10s. To John Crokit my sister's son, my swift hawse. Residue to Johan my wife.

Debts owing from Maister Rawde of Rawde (*i.e.*, Rode) and William Forde of the Mosse.

Executors :—Jane Addam my wife and William Rowley of Horkeley.<sup>4</sup> Overseer :—The Vicar of Careswall, John Wildeblod. Witnesses :—John Glover, Curat, Rychard Barlow, John Addam of Bemersley and John Meyre, parisshe clarke. Inventory not dated: amount £22 16s. 10d.: appraisers John Addam of Bamarsley and Richard Barlow of Childerley.

<sup>1</sup> *I.e.*, an ewe.

<sup>2</sup> Probably the Bruckehouse was by the Foullee Brook.

<sup>3</sup> The Longbridge carried the packway from Burslem to Newcastle across the swamp of the Foullee Brook. It is commemorated in Longbridge Hay, though the Canal has converted the locality to Longport. See *ante*, p. 242.

<sup>4</sup> *sic*, for Heakley, I suppose.

(7) Thomas Addams of the paroch of Burslem. Dated December 10th, 1562. Proved April 28th, 1563.

To be buried in the parish church yard of S. Peter's of Burslem. To Wylliam my son my best yron chymney, etc., he paying yerely to Ellen my daughter for twelve yeres 6*d.* per yere. To Ellen my daughter, my other chymney, etc. To Thomas my son a Jakett, etc. Residue to Ellen my wife, William my son, and Ellyn my daughter equally.

Executor:—Wylliam my son. Overseers:—John Burslem and John Rowley. Witnesses:—Nicholas Addam, Richard Leigh and William Bursele. Inventory dated December 22nd, 1562: amount £12 16*s.* 8*d.*: appraisers, John Burslem, John Rowley, Geffre Burne, and Thomas Deslye.

Proved at Lichfield by the Executor.

[I suppose that the "iron chimneys" were connected with the trade of a smith or potter. This Testator may be conjectured to be the son of Richard Addams mentioned in (2).]

(8) William Addams of Bagnall in the paroch of Stoke-on-Trent. Dated November 20th, 20 Elizabeth (1577). Proved February 15th, 1577-8.

To be buried in the Church of Stoke. To eldest son Roger Addams 5 marks. Residue of goods to unmarried daughter Elleyne Addams. The next of my children being marryed I have sufficiently provided for according to my power. Witnesses: William Addams, my sonne, William Mallatt and Thomas Lovatt the younger. Inventory dated February 12th, 1577-8: amount £75 15*s.* 0*d.*: appraisers, Roger Bradshaw of Greenwood Hall, Richard Sargeant the yonger and William Bagnold.

Administration with Will granted at Lichfield to Ellen Addams the daughter, the sons Roger, William and Thomas Addams renounced.

(9) Rauffe Adams of Bemersley in the paroch of Norton on the Moors. Dated January 23rd, 1591-2. Proved February 16th, 1591-2. To be buried in the churchyard of Norton. To Roger Adams my brother 12*d.* Residue to Thomas Adams my brother, Jane his wife, and ther chyl dren. Executor: the said Thomas Adams my brother. Overseer: Thomas Adams my father. Witnesses:—The said Thomas Adams my father, Richard Morley and Margery Thorley. Debts owing from Thomas Adams my father, Thomas my brother, and Roger my brother. Debts owing to George Saunders, the said Thomas Adams my father and Thomas Adams my brother.

Inventory dated January 30th, 1591-2: amount £14 6*s.* 4*d.*: appraisers, John Rowley, Randell Broune and Richard Hansell. Proved at Lichfield by the Executor.

(10) Thomas Addams the elder of Bemersley in the paroch of Norton in the Moors, Yeoman. Dated July 10th, proved August 8th, 1606. To be buried in the churchyard of Norton in the Moors amongst my ancestors. To Margaret and Anne Addams my two youngest daughters, all my copyhold lands, etc., in Bemersley lately purchased of Mr. George Sanders,

called the Outclough on conditions according to the custom of the Manor of Tunstall and on condition that Thomas Addams the younger, my son and heir apparent, pay to the said Margaret and Anne Addams the sum of fourscore pounds.<sup>1</sup> To my son Thomas two plowes, etc. To Raphe and John Addames £5 each in satisfaction of their childes parts. Residue to all my children except Thomas. I have covenanted with George Hildiche of Odde Rode co. Chester, yeoman, by Indenture dated January 9th, 3 James I. for certain payments which I hereby direct shall be satisfied. Executors:—John Addams my third son, and Margaret Addams my second daughter. Overseers:—My kinsman and friend William Ford the younger, William Thorley my brother-in-law and Thomas Addams, my eldest son.

Witnesses:—William Forde, Thomas Adams and Randall Hilditche. Debt owing from Ralph Adams my second son. Inventory dated July 19th, 1606: amount £145 15s. 1d.: appraisers, William Forde, younger, William Thorley and Thomas Adams. Proved at Lichfield by both Executors.

[This Testator is evidently the brother of Rauffe (No. 9), and Mr. Adams states that his son Thomas married Catherine, widow of John Rowley, and the Testator himself married Joan Rowley. William Thorley had married the Testator's sister Margery.]

(11) William Adams of Norton in the Moors. May 14th, 1613. Administration granted at Lichfield to Agnes Adames the Relict of the deceased. Sureties:—Thomas Baddeley of Norton in the Moors, husbandman, and Thomas Mellor of Abbie Hilton, husbandman. Inventory dated May 8th, 1613; amount £93 15s. 10d.: appraisers, William Ford, John Ford, Francis Moore, John Addames. There is a debt owing to John Adames his brother and Thomas Baddeley his brother-in-law.

(12) William Addames of the paroch of Newport, co. Salop, January 17th, 1625-6. Administration granted at Lichfield to Elizabeth Addames of Newport, Widow, the relict of the deceased, for the education of Thomas, Elizabeth, Alice, and Johane Addams, children of deceased, all minors. Surety, Thomas Mosse of Eccleshall, co. Stafford, yeoman. Inventory dated January 5th, 1625-6: amount £58 os. 9d.: appraisers, Roger Justice, John Robson, Thomas Masse, Walter Harley, and John Symmons.

Debts owing from Mr. Dampard, Anne Nowell, James Selvester, Walter Greene, John Rowley, Stephen Taylor, Robert Morye, Edward Peirce, Mr. Owen Bruerton, John Barrett, Roger Lynyall, Willyam Swan, Margaret

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<sup>1</sup> There is obviously an omission here in the abstract, for otherwise this would appear to mean that by some custom of the Manor of Tunstall the heir could buy the lands back from his sisters at a price, and that Thomas was to pay eighty pounds beyond the customary price.

Gittens, Roger Stringer of Hales, Thomas Lockett, Robert Pott, James Green, Robert Reynolds, Mr. Richard Taylor, Cork of Dawley, Thomas Stanton, Peter Bore, Robert Sywall, Mr. Edward Bullock, Anthonye Hawkins, Mr. Walter Piggott, Mrs. Eldershaw, Michael Offley, John Doddicott, Richard Hychcookes, Francis Taylor, Mr. Francis Comberford, and Abram Barratt.

[I give this administration because Thomas Mosse appearing as surety was evidently a close friend or relation of the administratrix, and it will be remembered that "Thomas Mosse's daughter" was mentioned in his will (proved 1568) by Nicholas Addams of Sneade in Burslem.]

(13) William Addams of Wolstanton, Free Mason.

Dated 5th, proved 23rd October, 1629.

To be buried in the parish church of Wolstanton. To Anne Adams my wife fourscore pounds, and forasmuch as my said wife is now quicke with child, if the child live I give it the lease of my house in foule lee,<sup>1</sup> and Randle Dakins rent. If the child die I give the revercion of the said lease to William Addams, son of my brother John, the said William to pay to my sister Joan Addams, spinster, £10, and to my sisters Anne and Elizabeth Addams £5 each. To my god-daughter Margaret Hales 40s. Residue, one half to my child if it live, and the other half to my executors, my brother John's children, my sisters and their children, provided that my mother, Anne Addams, shall have 40s. a yeare during her life.

Executors:—John Addams of Bagnall, my brother, Thomas Walter of Blurton, my brother-in-law, and Anne Addams, my wife.

Witnesses:—Francis Capps, John Addams, and John Moreton. Codicil not dated. "The Testator did joyne Joane Addams, the wife of his brother John, in the residue of his goods, and gave his clothes to Thomas Addams, son of John Addams, his brother." Inventory dated October 17th, 1629, amount £233 15s. 6d. Appraisers: Thos. Sergeant, John Newhall, John Walter, John Morton. Proved at Lichfield by the Executors.

Guardianship granted to Anne Addams the Relict, for the education of the posthumous son (*pro educationis (sic) posthmi*).

[This Testator is identified by Mr. Adams as a nephew of Rauffe Adams, and Thomas Addams the Testators of (9) and (10), but the wills alone do not support this conjecture, or mention a brother William, whom Mr. Adams assigns as the father of the Freemason.]

<sup>1</sup> *I.e.*, the Foulehay or Foullee Brook which divides Wolstanton from Burslem; and see p. 242.

## (14) Thomas Addams of Burslem.

Dated November 20th, proved December 29th, 1629.

To be buried in the church or churchyard of Burslem. To my sons, Thomas Adams and William Adams £10 each. To John Addams, my son, 12*d.* To Joan Addames my wife for life, half the house, etc., I now dwell in, and half the land, etc., and half the implements belonging to the trade of potting, and after the death of my wife the said half to go to my son Thomas. I give the other moiety of the same to my said son Thomas, he to permit my wife to have half the gains of Thomas, his pottinge, paying one half of all charges towards the bringing up of the yonger children. To my two younger sons 20*s.* each. I give the above tenement so devised to Joan my wife and Thomas my son, to my son William after the death of Thomas if he (Thomas) have no wife nor issue and after the death of Joan, but if Thomas marry and have either wife or child William is not to have it.

To my eldest daughter Marie Addams 12*d.* To the rest of my daughters Margaret, Katherine, Sara, and Margerie, £14 each at twenty-one. The Residue to my Executors.

Executors:—my wife Joane Addams and my son Thomas Addams.

Overseers:—William Colclough of Burslem, Gent., John Addams my brother, and my cosin Robert Addams.

Witnesses:—William Colclough, John Colclough, and William Ward. Inventory dated December 8th, 1629.

Appraisers:—William Coleclough, John Addams, Gilbert Wedgwood, Thomas Daniel, and Robert Adams.

Proved at Lichfield by both Executors for the education of Margaret, Catherine, Sarah, and Margerie, the daughters, all minors.

[This Testator is identified by Mr. Adams as son of Nicholas the Testator of 1568, but I see no evidence in favour of the identification except that both were of Burslem. Thomas, son of Nicholas, would be aged about seventy in 1629, and was therefore not likely to have four children under age.]

## (15) Richard Addams of Bemersley in the paroch of Norton in the Moors. Yeoman.

Dated September 26th, 1635. Proved May 3rd, 1637.

To be buried at the parish church where I shall die. To John Addams my brother, one baie<sup>1</sup> of building, being part of the dwelling house of Richard Addams, and an outhouse next to Bemersley Green, a parcell of ground called The New Ridding, a pasture called The Great Heighe Field, a pasture called The Stanley Riddings, with liberty to have and take the fourth part of such Frouse and Tinsell<sup>2</sup> as grows or hereafter shall grow, to be

<sup>1</sup> I suppose a "baie" or bay to be one gable-width of a house.

<sup>2</sup> "Frouse," I suppose, is furze. One meaning of "Tinsel" is "cloth of gold"; can this be a local name for broom or bracken?

divided by two of our friends in Stanley Riddinge for the fencing of the ground. To hold to him for the space of seventy years if Anne Addams, now wife of Richard Addams, shall so long live, and if the said John Addams do fortune to tanne, then to have a way to the tanhouse, etc., he paying £5 yearly therefor.

To my wife, one half of the land which I have of the grant of Sir William Bowyer, Knt. The Residue of houses, etc., to Richard Hyldyche, William Shawe, and John Porter, my sister's son, for the term of fourteen years for the use of my children, and after the end of fourteen years the same to go to Thomas Addams my eldest son. The Residue of goods to Anne Addams my wife, Richard Addams and John Addams, my two younger sons.

Executors :—Anne Addams my wife and Roger Whittacars my brother-in-law.

Witnesses :—William Forde, Thomas Addams, and Raphe Porter. Inventory dated April 21st, 1637 : amount £163 13s. 6d.

Appraisers :—Thomas Addams, Raphe Porter, William Edge.

Debts owing from Elizabeth Smyth, widow, John Addams, William Addams.

Proved at Lichfield by Anne Addams, and power reserved for the other Executor—for the education of Thomas, Richard, John, and William, the sons. Surety : Thomas Adams of Bemersley, yeoman.

[Mr. Adams identifies this Testator as a son of Thomas of Bemersley, Testator (No. 10) in 1606, and as baptized in 1596; but if so, it is curious that Richard is not mentioned in his father's Will. It is slightly in favour of the identification that a Hildych is mentioned in each Will, and that this Richard has a brother John.]

(16) John Addames of Burslem, Yeoman.

Dated November 26th, 1639. Proved February 5th, 1639-40.

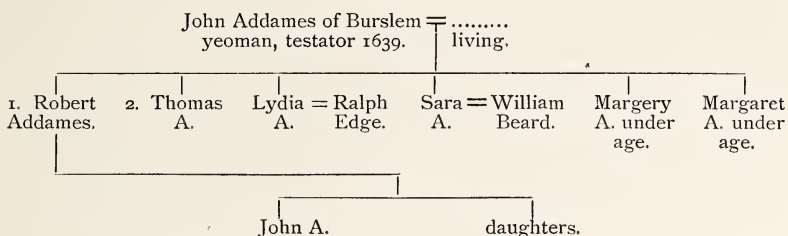
To Robert Addams my eldest son, my copyhold lands in Wolstanton for life, remainder to John Addames his son, my grandchild. To my said son Robert all my silver buttons, all my ploughs, harrows, etc. The Testator makes rather elaborate provisions for legacies to be paid to his children, mentioning bonds due from "Mr. Davernport," son-in-law William Beard and Thomas Keeling of Bemersley. He mentions Elizabeth Danyell, Agnes Orme and Ellen Fletcher, widows, also Dorothy Fletcher and Frances Ward. Leaves wife a table and bed "in her house at Forsbrook" and one-third of residue; the particulars give the pedigree below.

Executors :—Sons, Robert and Thomas Addames.

Witnesses :—Richard Orme, Thomas Danyels and Thomas Addames. Inventory dated January 23rd, 1639: amount £133 1s. 2d.: appraisers, William Stevenson, Richard Leigh, Thomas Malken.

Sureties :—Thomas Addams of Rushton, clerk, and Thomas Danyell of Burslem, Yeoman.

Proved at Lichfield by the son Robert Adam of Burslem, Yeoman, for the education of Margery and Margaret Addams the daughters, both minors.



[Mr. Adams states, quoting a Chancery Suit, *Mainwaring v. Shawe*, given in Mr. Wedgwood's *History of the Wedgwood Family*, p. 258, that the son Robert was aged forty in 1641, and leased a field called the Longcroft, in Burslem, from the Parson of Stoke. He says that John's wife was named Elizabeth, and that the surety "Thomas Addams of Rushton, Clerk," was the same person as the Testator's son Thomas who was nominated executor, but apparently did not act.]

(17) Robert Adams of Burslem, Yeoman. Dated July 27th, 1654. Proved March 30th, 1654-5. To be buried there near Father. To sonne John Adams all my silver buttons.<sup>1</sup> Thomas Leigh my son-in-law *12d.* Thomas Adams my son land lately purchased of John Crockett, to wit. The Scitch Croft, The Little Elgreave and the Hestowfield. To wife Catharine remainder of a lease in the lower Hayward's Hayes from John Crockett dated November 26th, 23 Charles I. The Residue to son Thomas, Elizabeth and Lydia my daughters and wife Catharine equally, my wife Executrix.

Witnesses :—John Stevenson, Cler., Sarah × Beard, John Adams.  
Proved in P.C.C. (469 Alchin) by the Executrix.

(18) Katharine Addams of Burslem, Widow, Relict of Robert Addams late of Burslem, Yeoman. Dated November 21st, 1664. Proved May 19th, 1665. To be buried in the parish churchyard of Burslem near the place where my said husband lyeth. Son John Addams *1s.* Daughter Elizabeth Allen ; daughter Lydia Addams remainder of a lease of the Furlong Field in

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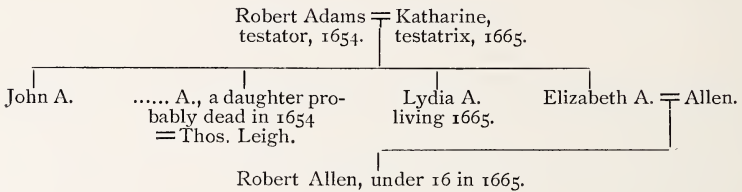
<sup>1</sup> These had been bequeathed to him by his father, *see* (No. 16).

Burslem. To son Thomas Addams two pewter chargers. Residue to grand-child Robert Allen at 16. Executrix the said Lydia Addams.

Witnesses :—John Colclough, Thomas Leigh, Eliza Marsh, Mary Daniell. Inventory dated February 14th, 1664 : amount £52 11s. 6d., appraisers : John Colclough, Thomas Leigh, Thomas Daniel, Stephen Cartlich.

Proved at Lichfield by the Executrix.

[Robert Adams the Testator of (No. 17) is evidently the eldest son mentioned in (No. 16), so that we may continue the pedigree thus]



(19) Thomas Adames of Trentham, Clerk. Dated March 9th, 1666-7.

Proved June 12th, 1667.

To be buried in the church or churchyard of Trentham. Rents owing from son Thomas and Thomas Embrie. Debt owing me from Randall Colclough of Motthouse, Mistress Rabson and William Dickinson of Trentham and from Lydia Cartleech<sup>1</sup> of Burslem to go towards paying "my harriot."<sup>2</sup> The profit of my librarie to two daughters Sarah and Elizabeth. Household goods to wife. The following children are mentioned, sons :—Thomas, John, Joseph, James, Isaac Josiah, Benjamin (under age). Daughters :—Hanna, Sara, Elizabeth.

Executor, son Thomas Adames.

Overseer, George Stannier of Normicoate Grange.

Witnesses :—Thomas Taylor and John Cope.

Inventory dated March 28th, 1667 : amount £222 : appraisers, Richard Foord, George Stannier, Richard Mountford and Edmond Taylor.

Proved at Lichfield.

[Most of the remaining abstracts in Mr. Adams' collection go to prove pedigrees which are in print and well substantiated from other sources. I therefore leave the north of the county

<sup>1</sup> Probably a relation. If Mr. Adams is right in identifying this Thomas as son of John the Testator of (No. 16), he had a sister and a niece each named Lydia.

<sup>2</sup> *I.e.*, the heriot due on Testator's decease to the lord of the manor.



and conclude the series with two abstracts of South Staffordshire Wills.]

(20) John Adames of Houndsworth,<sup>1</sup> yeoman. Dated February 27th, 1653-4. Proved July 12th, 1654. My well-beloved wife Anne, sole Executrix, and give her all my lands, etc., in Houndsworth, commonly called The Esseesse which I lately purchased of Sir John Wyrley, Knt., and the Weetfield lately purchased of Mr. William Stamford, Esquire, deceased. To daughters Elizabeth, Judeth and Mary, £120. To daughter Elizabeth Adams, three parcels of land called the Riddings which I lately purchased of John Scott, yeoman. To John Adams, my eldest son, that Coffor or Chest wherein my writings or evidences are kept and preserved, etc. To the poor of Houndsworth, and Perry Barr, 20s. The residue of goods to my said Executrix.

Witnesses :—Symon Browne, John Browne, William Austin.

Proved in P.C.C. (79 Alchin) by the Executrix.

(21) Thomas Adams of Walsall, buckle-maker. Dated October 19th, 1754. Proved November 3rd, 1756. By Indenture dated October 8th instant, I have given unto my dear wife "by the name of Scott Short" an annuity of £20 arising out of my lands, etc., in Walsall, I give my farmhouse in Great Bloxwich in the parish of Walsall, now in the tenure of John Brookes to my son James Adams, his heirs, etc., for ever. To son Thomas Adams, seven messuages in Ablewell Street, Walsall, one of which is now in my occupation, and the other six in the tenures of Benjamin Foster, Joseph Reynolds, Richard Wilkes, Benjamin Leeson . . . Lees . . . Allen, and all the shop tools and implements belonging to my trade. To my daughter, Mary Adams, my five messuages in Ablewell and Rushall Streets, in the occupations of William Smith, Humphrey Dudley, Mr. Roger Holmes, Samuel Freeman and Maurice Peace. The Residue between my said three children.

Executors :—Mr. Benjamin James the elder, and my daughter Mary.

Witnesses :—Mary Hawe, J<sup>n</sup>o Hawe, Sam<sup>l</sup> Morris.

Proved in P.C.C. (286 Glazier) by the Executors.

#### ADAMS OF CHURCH EATON.

In the Subsidy Rolls of 1327 and 1332-3, John Adames appears<sup>2</sup> at High Onne, which though a separate vill, is in the parish of Church Eaton; while in the latter place one-third of the male taxpayers bore the Christian name of Adam, and one of these latter, or John himself, may well have left a son who

<sup>1</sup> *I.e.*, Handsworth.

<sup>2</sup> In 1327, as Odames.

took Adams for his surname. At any rate I find<sup>1</sup> that at Church Eaton in the Poll Tax of 1379-80, "Edith Adams, widow," paid twelve pence, which was about the average amount. Quite probably, she was ancestress of the Adams Family which appears at Church Eaton in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, though no "abull man" of the name was found there at the Muster of 1539.

Down to the year 1660, the following Wills, etc., of persons named Adams from Church Eaton are at Lichfield:—

- 1551. John Adams.
- 1595. John Adams.
- 1597. William Adams; Administration.
- 1634. Richard Adams.
- 1637-8. Francis Adams.
- 1638. Thomas Adams.

In P.C.C. (33 Scott) the following Will was proved May 29th, 1595, the Testator being evidently of the Church Eaton Family, and it is an interesting example of the continuity of English life that his brother-in-law, William Hakyng, belonged to a family which had dwelt in the neighbourhood for some three centuries.<sup>2</sup>

Thomas Addams, of Woollaston, co. Staffs., bachelor. Dated 16th April, 1595.

"I desire to be buried in the churchyard of Churcheyton." I give to Richard Parker my brother-in-law, my sister his wife and their children, £30 out of my debts. To Anne Parkes my sister's daughter, £10 out of my debts. To my brother-in-law, Robert Bill of Walton, £6 13s. 4d. To my brother, Henry Adams, £14 that he oweth me. My brother-in-law, William Hakyn and Thomas and Margaret Hakyn, my sister's children. To Anne Stokes, two sheep.

Executors: Walter Parkes, my brother-in-law, and Lawrence Bratt, yeoman. Overseers: Richard Parker, my brother-in-law, and William Hakyn. Witnesses: William Jennyns, Frauncys Adams, Laurence Bratt and Walter Parkes. Debts owing to me: from Mr. George Onslowe (£26 13s. 4d.

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XVII, 197.

<sup>2</sup> Matilda Hakun of High Onn occurs in the 1327 Subsidy Roll; Adam Haken at Church Eaton in that of 1332-3; John Hakouns at Church Eaton in the Poll Tax of 1379-80; and Thomas Hakyns in the Muster Roll of 1539 at the neighbouring villages of Moreton and Wilbryhton.

by a bond that my father gave unto me); Thomas Caldwell of Awlston, and Oliver Talbott; my brother, Robert Bill; my brothers Richard Addams and Henry Adams; Thoma: Awsten, clerk; Richard Caldwell of Marston; Frauncys Standlowe of Bradlye; Mr. Frauncys Picto; John Stapleton, Roger Dawson; my brother-in-law, William Hakyn; Thomas Kyling of Apeton.

I have one mare, etc., in Woollaston at the house of my brother Parker, for his common.

Witnesses: Richard Lake, Richard Parker, and Raphaell Clarke with others.

Proved by Thomas Iles, notary public, proxy for Walter Parkes, one of the Executors, Lawrence Brett the other Executor having renounced.

#### ADAMS OF MUCKLESTON.

I have discovered no trace of any Adams family at Muckleston until the 1539 Muster, when John Addams the elder, and John Addams the younger, were able men, the latter having "a jack, a sallett and peir of splentes."

In 1542 the following Will was proved at Lichfield:—

Thomas Adhams of Muccestone, co. Stafford. Dated March 13th, 1541-2. Proved October 2nd, 1542.

The Testator desires to be buried in the Churchyard of Muccestone, and leaves to son Wylliam a pote, to Mawd Heyward 2 heyfars, etc., also a yewe and a lamb (apiece) to Wylliam Wallton's chyldere, to Hugh Hampton's chyldren, and to son John's chyldren. To Rychard, my servant, a cote. Residue of goods to be divided into two parts, one part to go to Alys my wife and the other part to John and William my sons. And in case Henry Hampton hath bequeathed by his lafull Wyll and Testament to his daughter Margaret Adhams a chyldes part of hys goodes then I wyll that halfe of my goodes to be indifferently divided unto John and Wylliam my sons and Margaret Hampton my daughter.

Executors: Alys my wiffe and John and William my sones. Overseers: Wylliam Walton, Wylliam Heywarde, Thomas Latheom. Witnesses: John Rondulson, curat, Thomas Hamby, Thomas Cotun, and Jamys Galwey. Inventory dated May 10th, 1542, amount £38 16s. 2d.: appraisers, John Hampton and Richard Wylkes.

Proved by the Executors.

The following Wills also were proved at Lichfield up to 1660, but I have no further information concerning this family—if family it was:—

1572. William Adams of Muckleston.  
 1610. John Adams „ „  
 1614. Margaret Adams „ Adm'on.  
 1625. William Adams „ „  
 1734-5. James Adams „ „ Inventory.

In 1561, William Adams, son of John of "Moxton," Staffordshire, was admitted as an apprentice to the Skinners' Company, London, and similarly in 1604, John Adhams, son of James of Mockleston.<sup>1</sup>

#### ADAMS OF BLYMHILL.

I have discovered no mention of the name of Adams at Blymhill until the Muster Roll of 1539, when Homfrey Addams was certified as possessing a bill and twelve arrows. Subsequently, the following Wills, etc., occur at Lichfield.

- 1607-8. William Adams of Blymhill. Adm'on.  
 1609-10. Roger Adams „ „  
 1622. Joan Adams „ „

In 1702 Thomas Adams was a tenant on the Lane estate in Blymhill,<sup>2</sup> and in 1763 John Adams was a tenant there under the Bridgeman family.<sup>3</sup>

#### ADAMS OF BREWOOD.

I find no mention of any Adams here until Thomas Adams, who occurs in the Muster Roll of 1539.

I have not, I believe, made any special search at Lichfield for Wills of Adamases of Brewood, but I find the following somewhat uninteresting Will in P.C.C. (33 Lewyn):—

Thomas Adams of Bysshoppes Woodd in the parish of Brewed co. Stafford. Dated October 27th, 39 Elizabeth (1597), and proved May 4th, 1598.

Testator desires to be buried in the Church of Brewed ; gives to every one of his godchildren fourpence ; and makes Henry Blackmore,<sup>3</sup> his servant, his

<sup>1</sup> *Misc. Gen. and Her.*, Third Series, Vol. I, p. 41.

<sup>2</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. I, pp. 330 and 378.

<sup>3</sup> "Blackmore" I take to be the same as "Blakemore," and "Illsele" to be Illsley.

Executor and Residuary Legatee. Overseer: William Clark, parson of Weston. Witnesses: Hughe Cooper, Humfrey Blackmore, Henrye Leeke, Edward Illsele.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

I have little more to add; but what I have given could be easily and plentifully illustrated by reference to the indexes of the *Staffordshire Historical Collections*, especially those volumes containing abstracts of the Feet of Fines. I have used the abstracts of the only two Wills of an Adams of Staffordshire proved in P.C.C. prior to 1600.

No Adams is mentioned in the 1583 Visitation of Staffordshire, but in the 1663-4 Visitation is a pedigree of Justice of Knighton, showing that Roger Justice of Newport, Salop, who died in 1646, aged 75, married Alice, daughter of John Adams of Newport, Salop.<sup>1</sup> She was doubtless related to William Addames of Abstract No. 12 of whose Inventory Roger Justice was an appraiser.

Grazebrook's note to the Rugeley Pedigree<sup>2</sup> in the 1614 Visitation shows a John Addams at Shenstone in 1619.

#### HERALDIC NOTES.

A family of Adams in London descended from an Adams family of Wem in Shropshire seems to have been allowed the arms, *Ermine, three wild cats in pale azure*,<sup>3</sup> which was borne also by the Adams family baronets from 1660 to 1770,<sup>4</sup> and by the Adamases of Longdon, Shropshire,<sup>5</sup> of whom John Adams married Jane, daughter of Sir Walter Wrottesley, first baronet. I gather that the arms of Adams of Sambrook were *Ermine, three wild cats in pale sable*, and that these were used for several generations by Mr. P. W. L. Adams' family, to whom they have now been confirmed by Heralds' College with the addition of *a border azure*.

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. V, part 2, p. 192.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 256.

<sup>3</sup> Harleian Society, Vol. XV, p. 5.

<sup>4</sup> Burke's *Armory*.

<sup>5</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, New Series, Vol. VI, part 1, p. 335.

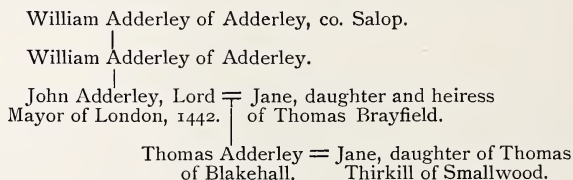
## ADDERLEY.

The Adderleys appeared at all three of the Staffordshire Visitations, Ralph Adderley of Coton (Coton-in-the-Clay in Hanbury Parish) entering the pedigree as far back only as his father (Thomas of Blackhaugh), in 1583, while in 1614 and 1663-4 the senior line of Blackhaugh, and the junior line of Coton, both recorded their descents, beginning with William Adderley, father of William, father of John, who by Joan, daughter and heiress of . . . Brafled or Braylesford, was father of Henry, father of the said Thomas.

Before attempting to illustrate the account given of the Adderley family in the Visitations, I had better say what I can concerning its early history and origin.

It appears from notes kindly lent to me by the Hon. Arden Adderley, that this family considers itself to be descended from John Aderley or Hatherley, citizen and ironmonger of London, who was Sheriff of London in 1431, and Lord Mayor in 1442.

The Pedigree<sup>1</sup> drawn up by Garter King-of-Arms for the late Lord Norton gives the earliest generations of the family as follows :—



The family notes follow the 1614 Visitation of Staffordshire in stating that this Thomas Adderley was son of Henry Adderley, and *grandson* of the Lord Mayor, but we need not trouble about the discrepancy, seeing that there is no valid reason for supposing that the Lord Mayor had anything to do with this or any other family of Adderleys. There seems to be no evidence for the existence of the two William Adderleys at the head of the pedigree, and they belong doubtless to that numerous tribe of ancestral spirits who never fail to come when called by the

For permission to inspect which I have to thank the present (the second) Lord Norton.

Glendowers of Heralds' College from the vasty deep of genealogies "on record."

With regard to the Lord Mayor, he is stated on good authority<sup>1</sup> to have been son of John Hatherley or Adderley of Bristol, and it is therefore more probable that his surname was derived from Hatherley in Gloucestershire than from the more remote village in Shropshire. His Will<sup>2</sup> was dated April 12th, 1459, which may be presumed to be not long before his death. Having regard to this, and to the date when he served as sheriff, we may safely place his birth about 1400, and may be sure that he was not the father of Thomas Adderley of Blakehall, whose sons lived on to 1595 and 1598. The will mentions his three wives, Isabella, Joanna, and Margaret, and entails the hostel wherein he dwelt, and a brewery called "le Cok on the Hoop," in Trinity Lane on his grandson Robert, son of Agnes his daughter, with remainder to the Prior and Convent of Salutation of the Mother of God, of the Carthusian Order. It is, therefore, highly improbable that the Lord Mayor left any descendants in the male line. His armorial bearings<sup>3</sup> also, . . . . *on a bend between two lions' heads erased three crosses patée*, were totally different from the Adderley Arms.

The Will<sup>4</sup> of his widow Joan, dated 1487, is also extant, but like her husband's shows no connection with Staffordshire, and she mentions no descendants of herself or her husband. It is plain from a Chancery suit<sup>5</sup> of 1449-1452 that she was daughter of Richard Thurcotes, and the statement in Garter's pedigree that she was "daughter and heiress of Thomas Brayfield" therefore goes by the board. The Chancery suit also gives her husband's

<sup>1</sup> Nicholls' *History of the Ironmongers' Company*, p. 24, whether relying on the records of the Company or on Maitland's *History of London*, I cannot say.

<sup>2</sup> Sharpe's *Calendar of Wills* proved in the Court of Hustings, Vol. II, 552-3.

<sup>3</sup> *Ex inf.* Mr. E. M. Borrajo, City Librarian, who has kindly supplied much of the preceding information.

<sup>4</sup> P.C.C. 6 Milles. She calls herself "Dame Johane Aderle widow of William Brokas of the County of Southampton, Esq." It seems somewhat strange that the (apparently) third wife should be mentioned second in order in her husband's Will.

<sup>5</sup> Early Chancery Proceedings, Bundle 19, No. 13.

surname as "Hatherley." Another Chancery suit<sup>1</sup> also shows that "John Hatherle's" wife Margaret was widow of a certain Richard Gyggys, merchant of Lynn. I may add that the identity of the testatrix of 1487 with the Lord Mayor's widow is absolutely proved by her epitaph in Pepperharrow Church, Surrey.<sup>2</sup>

The 1583 Visitation of Staffordshire assigns no ancestors to Thomas Adderley of "Blackhaugh," and though in the 1614 Visitation he appears as son of Henry, son of John, son of William, son of William, it is not stated therein that John was the Lord Mayor.

Adderley is a parish in the Hundred of North Bradford, Shropshire, and was, as late as A.D. 1835, more generally known as "Atherley."<sup>3</sup> In early times the Manor was held from the Crown by the Montfort family, from whom it was bought in 1309 by Bartholomew de Badlesmere, whose son Giles inherited it but died without issue, and Margaret, the youngest of Giles' four sisters and co-heirs, carried it to her husband, William, Lord Roos, with whose descendants it remained.<sup>4</sup> Eyton mentions a Vivian fitzAdam of "Addradel" concerned in 1256 in a dispute about a virgate of land in Adderley; and also shows that at the 1272 Assizes an Alexander de Adredelegh was a juror from Bradford Hundred. This Alexander was doubtless identical with Alexander de Adredelegh, who by fine of November 25th, 1277, enfeoffed William fitzAlexander (probably his son), of a messuage and seventy acres of land in Adderley, at the nominal rent of a sore hawk.

There is, however, nothing to show that any of these persons used "Adderley" as a hereditary surname, though there would be nothing unlikely in the assumption of the place-name as a surname by important freeholders who yet had no interest in the

<sup>1</sup> Early Chancery Proceedings, Bundle 26, No. 437. The alternative dates (1404-1426 or 1456-1460) possible for this suit do not enable us to assert positively that Margaret was an earlier wife than Joan, but I have no doubt of it.

<sup>2</sup> The Hon. Arden Adderley's Notes; Manning and Bray's *Surrey; Surrey Archaeological Soc. Transactions*, Vol. VII, 34.

<sup>3</sup> Lewis' *Topographical Dictionary*.

<sup>4</sup> Eyton's *History of Shropshire*, Vol. X, p. 4-5.



Manor. It is also significant that the Shropshire Subsidy Roll<sup>1</sup> of 1327 under "Aderdeleye" mentions no one bearing the surname of the place.

I am strongly of the opinion that the Adderleys took their surname not from Adderley in Shropshire, but from Adderley, now called Adderley Green, in the parish of Caverswall, North Staffordshire.

Adderley<sup>2</sup> is at the eastern end of Caverswall, adjoining Longton, and accordingly in 1293 we find Richard de Adderlegh a feudal tenant in respect of six acres in the Manor of Langeton (Longton), and apparently in part responsible for castle-guard service at Newcastle-under-Lyme, and for escort service between Newcastle and Wrymesford, both of these services being due to the Crown in time of war.<sup>3</sup>

In 1327 Richard de Adderley appears in the Subsidy Roll as one of the most important tenants of Caverswall.<sup>4</sup>

In 1332-3 a William de Adderley was rated to the Subsidy at Cheadle, some five miles east of Adderley, while at Adderley (in Caverswall) itself Richard de Adderley was rated as one of the most substantial inhabitants.<sup>5</sup>

It would probably be a later Richard de Adderley, who in 1363 was acquitted of the murder (1356-7) of William de Weston Coyney, which place is also in Caverswall, and close to Adderley.<sup>6</sup>

So also the next notice I have found of anyone surnamed Adderley who was undoubtedly of Staffordshire relates to this part of the county, it being a suit brought in 1465 by Henry Adderley against William Warner of Dilhorn. The parties to the suit were evidently near neighbours, for Adderley the plaintiff rented a few acres in Dilhorn from Warner.

Dilhorn, lying between Adderley and Cheadle, contained Blackhaugh, the seat of the Adderleys in the sixteenth century, and it is therefore most probable that we have in this Henry

<sup>1</sup> *Shropsh. Arch. Trans.*, 2nd Series, Vol. I.

<sup>2</sup> According to Burke's *Commoners*, Vol. II, 279, there was another Adderley a little north of Heley Castle in Audley Parish, but I have discovered no trace of this.

<sup>3</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. VI, 266.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, 215.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. X, 117 and 118.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XIV, 115.

Adderley a direct ancestor of the Visitation family. He may even have been the Henry—if there was such a person—who according to the 1614 Visitation was father of the Thomas who heads the pedigree in the 1583 Visitation. It is interesting to observe that the Adderleys and Warners probably composed their differences peacefully, for, according to the 1583 Visitation, Thomas Adderley, son of the above-mentioned Thomas, first in the pedigree, married Joane, daughter of Robert Warner. It would also appear that Henry Adderley was a person of some influence, for the unsatisfactory reason that the jury was successfully challenged by William Warner, on the ground that William Basset the sheriff had arrayed it in favour of Henry Adderley.<sup>1</sup> A few years later, in 1472, we come across<sup>2</sup> one Thomas Adderley of Kyngeley, whose date is too early for him to be the Thomas standing at the head of the trustworthy pedigree entered in the 1583 Visitation of Staffordshire. Here again we are near to (what I regard as) the original home of the Adderleys, for Kingsley adjoins Cheadle on the north, and stretches westward toward Adderley Green. Again also we find that the Adderleys are a prosperous race, for Thomas estimates his damages for broken close, trees cut down, underwood carted away, and for other enormities, at no less than forty pounds.

Coming down to the Muster Roll of 1539, we find<sup>3</sup> Adderleys thick on the ground:—Thomas Adderley the leading “abull man with a bill” at Stretton near Brewood; Francis and John Adderley at High Onn; Thomas Adderley at Tittensor; while Homfrey Adderley has horse and harness, and Robert Aderley has a bill but no harness, at unnamed places in Totmanslow Hundred which included Cheadle and Dilhorn.

I must also mention a certain Ralph de Aderley, to whom I cannot assign any habitation or descendants, and who in Easter Term, 1402, brought an action *Coram Rege* to recover the Manor of Ansty (near Coventry), Warwickshire. He claimed as son and heir of another Ralph de Aderley, and in right of a fine<sup>4</sup> passed in Easter Term, 3 Richard II. (1380). The defendant,

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, N.S., Vol. IV, 137.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 185.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, N.S., Vols. V and VI, part I.

<sup>4</sup> *Ancient Deeds*, A. 4324.

who was apparently successful, was Roger Deincourt.<sup>1</sup> Petitions, one by Margery, who was wife of Ralph de Adderley, and another by Ralph de Adderley, appear as follows in the *Ancient Petitions of the Chancery and Exchequer*,<sup>2</sup> but I must leave to others the examination of these documents :—

Nos. 1111 and 1113 [William Thirnyng and others Justice of Assize 1-12 Hen. IV.]

Petition by Margery, who was wife of Rauf de Aderley. Petitioner sued a writ of *cui in vita* against Esmond Perpount, Chivaler, seven years since, before William Thirnyng and Robert Tirwhyte, Justices of Assize in the second year of the King's reign as to lands in Sneynton co. Nottingham. She obtained possession, but Perpount's servants kept her shut up in a room without food or drink ; Perpount and his son Henry have also threatened to kill William Whatton, cousin and attorney of the said Margery.

No. 11144.

Petition by Rauf de Aderley, Johan Colle chapelleyne, and William de Normanton, begging redress in the carrying out of an agreement entered into in consequence of a suit by the petitioners against John Stanhope and Elizabeth his wife in the Court of Common Pleas concerning divers manors in cos. Warwick, Derby, Nottingham, Stafford, and Leicester.

The mention of John and Elizabeth Stanhope in the second of the above petitions, shows that Ralph the petitioner was one of the Adderleys mentioned by Dugdale under "Anstey," as having a legal conflict with the Deincourts. Margery, of the first petition, was no doubt the widow of the first Ralph.

Of special interest to our immediate purpose among these earlier Adderleys were :—

Henry de Adderley (1360-1373) and William de Adderley (1374-1380), who were successively lords of the Manor of "Heghegge" in the diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, where they were licenced to have a private oratory. "Heghegge" is identified doubtfully by the editor of Bishop Stretton's Register, as High Edge in Derbyshire,<sup>3</sup> but I prefer to associate it with "The Heyghe Halghe," which was evidently in or close to "the

<sup>1</sup> See Plantagenet Harrison's Collections in *P.R.O.*, Vol. IV, 354 ; also Dugdale's *Warwickshire*, 80.

<sup>2</sup> File 23, Nos. 1111-1113 and File 223, No. 11144.

<sup>3</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, N.S., VIII.

Blackhaugh,"<sup>1</sup> which itself was in the parish of Dilhorn. I know nothing more about either "the Heyghe Hayghe" or High Edge, but only two of the licences referred to speak of the oratory as being at the Manor of Heghegge; elsewhere it is simply "at" Heghegge, or at the "Mansion" of Heghegge, and therefore even if there were shown to be no such Manor in Dilhorn, I should consider that the term was used inaccurately or as a compliment, and that the identification suggested may still hold good. Accepting it, we have here, I doubt not, two early ancestors of the Adderleys of the Blackhaugh and Coton.

To sum up therefore; we probably have an early ancestor of the family in:—

Richard de Adderlegh, occurring 1293, who evidently took his name from Adderley in Caverswall, and was probably ancestor of

Richard de Adderley of Caverswall in 1327 and 1332-8; and of

Richard de Adderley, who occurs 1363, being acquitted when charged with murdering a Caverswall man; also of

Henry de Adderley (1360-1373), and

William de Adderley (1374-1780), who occur successively as of "Heghegge," which I take to be some place close to Blackhaugh.

Descended from one of the last two mentioned probably were:—

Henry Adderley, tenant of land in Dilhorn in 1465, and

Thomas Adderley of Kyngeley in 1472, the last named being probably a near relation to his namesake of Blackhaugh, whose Will was witnessed in 1538 by "Thomas Adderley of Kyngeley."

I come now to what I have called the "trustworthy pedigree" of the Family, namely, that entered by Ralph Adder-

<sup>1</sup> A witness to the will of Thomas Adderley of Blackhaugh in 1538 was "John Porter of the Heyge Halghe," who would doubtless be a neighbour of the Testator.

ley, Esquire, of Coton (in Hanbury) at the Heralds' Visitation of Staffordshire in 1583.<sup>1</sup>

He describes himself as son of Thomas Adderley "of the Blackhaghe in the countye of Stafford" by Joan the daughter of John<sup>2</sup> Thirkell of Smallwood in the same county.

In the 1614 Visitation Blackhaugh is said to be "in Moreland"<sup>3</sup> and the 1663-4 Visitation<sup>4</sup> places it in Totmonslow Hundred. Further, I could not identify it, until I came to peruse the Will of Thomas Adderley dated 1538, in which he describes himself as "of the Blakehalghe in the parish of Dilverne," (Dilhorn) Staffordshire.

I begin what I have to say about the Adderleys of the Visitations period with :—

Thomas Adderley of the Blakehalge in the parish of "Dilverne" (Dilhorn), co. Stafford, whose Will was dated, June 3rd, in 1538, and proved at Lichfield January 15th, 1538-9.

He desires to be buried in the Church of Dilverne before the Image of our Lady. He desires "my goods to be divided into three parts ; one part to be reserved to myself to pay my funeral expenses and debts ; the second to go to Jone my wife ; and the third to my children to be distributed as my executors think most needful." Executors—Jone my wife and John Adderley my son. Supervisor—"Jamys Thrykell" (*i.e.* "Thirkell") my brother-in-law. Witnesses—"Thomas Adderlye of Cheyngley, John Porter of the Heyghe Halghe, and John Lorde, priest." The Inventory, which is not dated, amounts to £53 11s. 8d., the Appraisers being—Thomas Adderley of Kyngsle, John Porter, Tomas Barnye, and Tomas Phyllyppe.

The Will was proved by Joan, the relict, power being reserved for John Adderley the son.

With regard to Thomas Adderley's wife, Joan Thirkell, I shall have more to say when discussing the quarterings used by the Adderley Family.

It is evident from the 1583 Visitation that Thomas and Joan Adderley had issue (together with three daughters), five sons, namely :—

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, III, p. ii.

<sup>2</sup> Not "Thomas" as in Garter's pedigree.

<sup>3</sup> *I.e.*, in the Moorland district of North Staffordshire.

<sup>4</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, V, p. ii.

1. Thomas Adderley, who evidently succeeded to Blackhaugh. He was perhaps<sup>1</sup> the Thomas Adderley whose Will was proved at Lichfield in 1559. In the 1663-4 Visitation the pedigree of his descendants is brought down to his great-great-grandson, Samuel Adderley of Blackhaugh, who had married Catherine Colclough. Samuel and Catherine had a son and heir, Samuel, who by his second wife Ann Thornicroft had a son also named Samuel, who died without issue.<sup>2</sup> Apparently Blackhaugh came to the Adderleys of Coton,<sup>3</sup> for Lettice Adderley, the heiress of that family, who married her cousin Bowyer Adderley, mentions in her diary that she had parted from the estate of Blackhaugh.<sup>4</sup>
2. John Adderley died without issue. His Will (P.C.C. 21 Butts) was dated May 15th, 1583, and proved January 18th, 1583-4. The following is an abstract:—

John Adderley of Great Over [co. Derby] Gentleman. I bequeath to my godson John Hardy the younger 20 nobles; to his sister Frances Hardy 20 nobles. To my servant Margaret Fowler £5. To Gabriel Adderley son of George Adderley £5 13s. 4d. To my servant Frances Adderley £5 13s. 4d. To John Ridge schoolmaster for as long as he teaches at Middle Over 6s. 8d. a year. To Jane Adderley daughter of Thomas Adderley a bed. To my godson John Aucocke a heifer. To each of my brother Ralph's sons 20s. To my cousin Alice Hardy a cow. To my godson Gawen Cockette 2s. To every cottager in the town 12d. To John Adderley of Great Over a frieze coat. To the church 20s. To my servant Anthony two ewes. To Gabriel Pertriche a ewe. To James Hancocke, shepherd, a ewe and lamb. To each of my brother Ralph's daughters, 40s. To Nicholas Eluasson of Great Over, a ewe. To my godson John Heywood of Mickle Over a lamb. My old servant Margaret Bartfoot to be kept with meat and drink for life. To servants Margaret Forde and Dorothy, a ewe each. I owe my brother Humphrey £6, and Robert Milward of Doneridge, £4 3s. 4d.

Executors:—My brothers Ralph and Thomas Adderley and John Hardy

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I have not examined this Will.   <sup>2</sup> Burke's *Commoners*, Vol. II, 279, etc.

<sup>3</sup> This cannot have been by inheritance, for the Visitation Pedigrees show numerous descendants of the Blackhaugh Adderleys.

<sup>4</sup> Family Memoranda lent by the Hon. Arden Adderley.

[No signature]. Witnesses :—John Ridge, Rannulphe Jesoppe, Nicholas Eluasson. Proved by Ralph and Thomas Adderley, and power reserved to John Hardy.

3. Ralph Adderley. He is described as an eminent lawyer, and in 1561 was called "learned in the law," and was stated to have been four years earlier, "of the Counsel of Rowland Rugeley, gentleman."<sup>1</sup> He evidently amassed a large fortune, and purchased several properties in Staffordshire,<sup>2</sup> of which the most important was the estate of Coton under Needwood in Hanbury Parish, which he bought from Lord Mountjoy. Ralph Adderley was a Justice of the Peace for Staffordshire,<sup>3</sup> and in 1574-5 was Sheriff of the County.<sup>4</sup> The Visitation Pedigree states that he died in 1595, and his Will (86 Lewyn) was proved in 1598. The Pedigree of his descendants is well known and need not be here repeated. It is enough to say that they continued to hold Coton until the heiress Lettice brought it in marriage to her distant cousin Bowyer Adderley of Hams Hall, Warwickshire, ancestor of the present Lord Norton.

The following is an abstract of Ralph Adderley's Will (86 Lewyn), which is of unusual interest. It will be noticed that he does not mention his son Walter, or his daughter Grace and her husband Edward Richardson. The Will shows that the Christian name (not given in the Visitation) of his son-in-law Baskerville, was "Thomas." He was, it may be added, of Old Withington Prestbury, Cheshire. Dorothy was his first wife, and from them descended the Baskervyle-Gleggs, of Old Wittington. She was buried at Goostrey January 7th, 1602-3.<sup>5</sup> The relationships of "brother Hollins," "cousin John Pallmer," and "cousin John Fearn," I cannot explain. The overseer Walter Bagot was son of Richard Bagot, brother of Margaret Bagot the Testator's first wife. The Will is dated April 16th, 1597, and was proved October 28th, 1598.

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, N.S., Vol. IX, 15.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vols. XII and XIII, and N.S., IX.      <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, N.S., Vol. IX, 240.

<sup>4</sup> *List of Sheriffs. Lists and Indices* P.R.O. printed.

<sup>5</sup> Earwaker's *East Cheshire*, II, 373.

Ralph Adderley of "Colton" (*sic* for "Coton"), co. Staff., Esquire. I desire to be buried in the chancel of the parish church of Hanbury, co. Staff. I desire to have a great stone of Alabaster laid upon me with the pictures of my two wives and my children with these inscriptions on various parts of the stone : "*Ecce quid eris. Domine secundum Actum meum noli me iudicare, sed secundum magnam misericordiam tuam miserere mei. Quia tibi solo peccavi.*"

By deed of feoffment, I have given to John Pallmer, Esq., Robert Myllwarde, gent., and Philip Hollins, gent., closes called Obstructe Heron and the Hilles in the tenure of James Swenson and James Case in Hanbury, and Hanbury Wood End, to pay every Sunday in Lent yearly 11s. 1d. to 30 poor people in Hanbury—the said Indenture dated 23rd June 33 Elizabeth, which I now confirm.

To Thomas Powmfrett 5s. 8d. a year. To the poor of Burton, Tutbury, Uttoxeter, Stafford, and Leeke, £15 amongst them. To my wife Phelice, £66 6s. 8d., the best silver salt, spoons, household goods, etc. To my eldest son Richard, a chest containing my evidences of inheritance, a cloak, armour, &c. ; to his wife, £3 6s. 8d.

Whereas Sir Thomas Gresham, Knt., deceased, and Anne, his wife, did grant to my nephew, Gabriel Adderley, deceased, two messuages in Great-over, co. Derby, in the tenures of William Jackson and Thomas Newton, for one thousand years, which Gabriel made over to me, I do now bequeath to my sons Ralph and George, the moiety of all that estate. To my son John, £10, having already given him lands in Mycle Over. To my son George, £300, £200 of which my son William has, at his age of twenty-one. To my daughter Mary Adderley £300, at her age of twenty-one. To my son-in-law, Thomas Baskerville, gent., a velvet jerkin and a mare. To my son-in-law, Philip Hollins, a cloak. To my brother Hollins a cloak. To my cousin John Pallmer, Esq., my book containing Mr. More's works. To my daughter Ellen Hollins, a doublet. To John Bellfyld a cassock. To John Dickson the elder a doublet. To Loveat of Marchington, weaver, a calf. To each of the children of my sons Richard Adderley and Philip Hollins a cow. Legacies to servants Henry Lorte, and his sister Margaret, Thomas Greene, Godfrey Getley, John Myles alias Carter.

Further legacies of clothes, household goods and money, to wife and children already named.

To my cousin John Fearne a black mare. To my cousin Robert Myllward of Eyton, a mare. To my sons Ralph and George, a pasture in Mycle Over called the Butterclose.

*Residuary legatees* :—My children, William, Thomas, Ralph, John, and George Adderley ; Ellen Hollins and her daughter Dorothy, and Mary Adderley.

*Executors* :—Sons, William, Thomas, Ralph, and John.

Cloaks to these six poor men : Thomas Pomfrett, John Bellfyld, John Dickson the elder, John Dixon the younger, Loveat of Marchington, and old Lees.



*Overseer* :—My cousin Walter Bagott, Esq.

*Codicil* :—Son, John Adderley to have the lands in Mickle Over, co. Derby. Proved by the Executors named in the Will.

4. Humphrey Adderley, who established himself at Weddington in Warwickshire. His Will (64-5 Lewyn) was proved in 1598, and Grazebrook's additions give particulars<sup>1</sup> of the dates of his children's births, etc. As, however, the history of his branch of the family belongs to Warwickshire, I pursue it no further.
5. George Adderley, who died in France apparently before the date of the 1583 Visitation. His son, Gabriel Adderley, as will have been seen, was apparently living on May 25th, 1583, the date of his Uncle John's Will, but is mentioned as deceased in the Will of his Uncle Ralph, dated April 16th, 1597.

#### HERALDIC NOTES.

At the first Visitation it is evident that the Arms of the Adderley Family were not yet established, for among "the doubtfull Armes of Staffordshire"<sup>2</sup> the coat *Argent, on a bend azure three lozenges or each charged with a pheon gules*, is placed opposite Ralph Adderley's name, and these bearings differ substantially from the simpler: *Argent, on a bend azure three mascles of the field*, allowed in subsequent Visitations. I may as well repeat that both coats are quite different from the arms borne by Lord Mayor Hatherley. It remains, however, to say something of the quarterings, which in the two later Visitations of Staffordshire, as also in the 1619 Visitation of Warwickshire, were given as follows :—

2. *Gules, three escallops in bend argent, between two bendlets vair.*
3. *Or, three reindeers' heads coupéd sable, on a canton gules a fleur de lis or.*

One must suppose these quarterings to have been brought into the family in some generation before that of the three brothers, Thomas (the younger), Ralph, and Humphrey, for the

<sup>1</sup> Taken from *Notes and Queries*, 7 Ser. I, 486.

<sup>2</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. III, Part II, p. 29.

descendants of all three bore them. In both the Staffordshire and Warwickshire Visitations "2" is assigned to "Braifield," meaning thereby Joan, "daughter and heir of . . . . Braifield," stated to be wife of John Adderley, great-grandfather of the three brothers. Garter's pedigree identifies this John with the Lord Mayor, whose wife, however, as I have shown, was daughter of Richard Thurcotes. The 1663-4 Visitation of Staffordshire alters Joan's surname to "Braylesford," the name of an ancient family in Derbyshire bearing quite different arms, but it yet retains Braifield as the name for the quartering. "Braifield" seems a name quite unknown to genealogists, and, under the circumstances, I regard the quartering as "bogus" and foisted on the family by some untrustworthy Herald. As to "3," no name is assigned to it in the Staffordshire Visitations, but in the Harleian Society's copy of the 1619 Warwickshire Visitation it is assigned to Thirkeld (*i.e.*, Thirkell). As, however, Joan Thirkell, wife of the elder Thomas, was not an heiress;<sup>1</sup> as also the Thirkell arms were described in the Adderley pedigree of 1614 as *Or, a maunch gules charged with a fleur de lis or*, this identification fails, and both quarterings must, in my opinion, be condemned for lack of evidence to support them.

At a later date, the Adderleys of Coton became undoubtedly entitled to quarter Arden and Bowyer together with other quarterings brought in by these two ancient families; all of which, with several others, are depicted on the splendid illuminated pedigree now in the possession of Lord Norton at Hams Hall.

#### P.C.C. WILLS.

In accordance with my plan, I now give a list of the sixteenth-century Adderley Wills in P.C.C.

- 1583/4, John Adderley of Mickleover, 21 Butts.
- 1589/90, Francis Adderlee of High Onne, 8 Drury.
- 1598, Ralph Adderley of Coton, 86 Lewyn.
- 1598, Humphrey Adderley of Wedington, 64-5 Lewyn.
- 1599, George Adderley of London, 69 Kidd.

Of the first, third, and fifth I have already given abstracts ; the fourth belongs to Warwickshire ; the following is an abstract of the second, that of Francis Adderley, for references to whom, see *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, New Series, IX :—

Frauncis Adderlee of Highonne in the parish of Churcheaton, co. Staff. Dated September 29th, 1587. Proved February 9th, 1589/90.

I desire to be buried in the Church of Churcheaton. Elizabeth Adderleighe my daughter sole legatee and executrix. Overseers:—John Woodeston and George Adderley my brethren. Witnesses:—John Woodeston, George Adderley, John Copper. Proved by Thomas Warde, notary public, proxy for the executrix.

The following is an abstract of the last mentioned. The Testator, George Adderley, was evidently the son of Ralph Adderley, of Coton, by his second wife, Phelice Milwarde. It may be only a coincidence that a Tomas Barney witnessed the Will of George's grandfather, Thomas Adderley, while Thomas Barney witnesses this Will.

George Adderley of St. Alban's, Wood St., London. Dated May 18th, 1899. Proved August 28th, 1599.

I bequeath to my mother Phelisse Adderley £100. To my brother William Adderley £100. To my brother John Adderley £100. One hundred pounds to be divided among my other brothers and sisters. To the poor men's box in Morocus 100 ounces.

Executors:—my brothers William and John. Overseer:—my Mother. Signed:—George Adderley.

Witnesses:—Thomas Barney, preacher, Thomas Sorrocould, John Warefeilde, Thomas Pate, Jesper Thomson.

Proved by Thomas Browne, public notary, proctor to the Executors.

#### LICHFIELD WILLS.

The first mention of an Adderley in the Lichfield Probate Registry is the record of the Administration of William Adderley in 1532. Next comes the Administration of William Hadderley of Coventry in 1533. There is also, I think, calendared a document relating to some Adderley in 1533, and in 1533-4 the Administration of Ralph Adderley of Cheadle. Of the foregoing the first, third, and fourth are, I understand, all missing.

Next in order comes the Will of Thomas Adderley of (Blackhaugh in) Dilhorn, of which I have already given an abstract.

Then come the following three :—

Raffe Aderley of Caverswall, co. Stafford, dated February 14th, 1538-9.

To be buried in the churchyard of Caverswall nigh to my wiffe. To Master Vycar my curat 12*d.* to pray for me. To John and Rychard my sons 40*s.* each. To Annys my daughter a calfe. The residue to Robert and Thomas my sons. Executors :—William Amerye and Jhamys Sponer. Witnesses :—Sir Jhon Wyldeblode, clarke vycar, Wylliam Saunders, clarke, Robert Sponer and Raffe Warner.

Inventory not dated ; amount £17 3*s.* 0*d.* Appraisers :—Robart Wod and Robart Sponer.

Proved by both Executors October 6th, 1539.

Constance Adderley of Cheadle, co. Stafford. Will proved July 10th, 1546, by John Beylatt and Thomas Barnes the Executors. (The Act Book entry only is extant.)

William Adderley of Bradley, co. Stafford. Will proved July 6th, 1547, by William, Thomas, and Robert Adderley the Executors. No relationship stated. (The Act Book entry only is extant.)

From this time forth Adderley Wills and Administrations are numerous at Lichfield, including up to 1649 the following :—

Of Dilhorn : Thomas, 1559 ; Thomas, 1597 ; Elizabeth, 1636.

Of Coton : Richard, Esq., 1642.

Of Kingsley : Thomas, 1569 ; John, 1600.

Of Bradley and Apeton : Robert, 1597 ; Humphrey, 1601.

Of Leek : Maud, 1557-8 ; John, 1649.

Of Stoke-on-Trent : Thomas, 1577 ; Ralph, 1595.

#### LICHFIELD MARRIAGE LICENCES TO 1700.

1666, Richard Adderley and Jane Lathrop at Bramshall.

1669, William Adderley and Jane Aston at Dilhorn.

1669-70, John Adderley and Ann Houlden at Youlgreave.

1681, Ralph Adderley and Mary Bourgh at Leek. Mark Aderley and Dorcas Walker at Repton Formarke.

1684, Henry Adderley and Grace Parker at Dilhorn or Seighford.

1686, Lodowick Aderley and Ann Stanley at Uttoxeter or Blithfield.

- 1689, Robert Adderley and Ellen Rolston at Derby or Kedleston.
- 1689-90, Samuel Adderley and Elizabeth Sneyd at Burslem or Wolstanton.
- 1692, Edward Adderley and Joan Gratwood at Lapley or Haughton. William Adderley and Jane Keeling at Bradley or Church Eaton.

## ALUMNI OXONIENSES.

The following are all the Adderleys from Staffordshire who have matriculated at Oxford University down to 1886. There have also been a large number of the Hams Hall (Warwickshire) family; several from Ireland; one of an early date from Coventry; and in 1682-3 Thomas, son of Edward Adderley of "Adderley," co. Glouc., arm., matriculated from Lincoln College, aged 18; the description being doubtless a clerical error, if not a slip on the part of Mr. Foster.

- 1585, Ralph Adderley of co. Stafford, gent., matriculated July 2nd as a scholar of Mr. Case, aged 16. It is added that he was "of Blakehall." If so, I suppose that he was an unknown son of Thomas (the younger) and Joan. I expect, however, that he was the Ralph Adderley (younger son of Ralph of Coton) who afterward married Elizabeth Noel.
- 1673, Thomas Adderley, son of John of Apeton, co. Staff., matriculated May 5th, from Brasenose College, aged 16.
- 1705, Thomas Adderley, son of George of Apeton, co. Staff., Pleb., matriculated June 28th, from Queen's College, aged 16. Mr. Foster adds that he was Vicar of Burton, Notts., 1714, and Rector of Cadeby, Leicestershire, 1719.

## SUBSIDY ROLLS, ETC.

All the Adderley references in these I have used in the foregoing remarks.

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Raph Adderley of Blackhaugh, gent., compounded for Knighthood at £12 in the time of Charles I., and Richard Adderley of Coton, Esq., at £12 10s. *od.*<sup>1</sup>

Adderley of Apeton and Bradley. In addition to the foregoing notes under the heads of Lichfield Wills and Alumni Oxonienses, particulars relating to this family will be found on p. 257 of that monumental work, *The Reades of Blackwood Hill*, by A. L. Reade. William Adderley was an "abull man" here at the Muster of 1539.<sup>2</sup>

Adderley of Derbyshire. I have already mentioned the Will (in P.C.C.) of John Adderley of Mickleover, 1583. Apparently a copy of, papers relating to, it may be seen at Lichfield. Thomas Gell of Derby, apothecary, in his Will dated March 7th, 1672, and proved May 2nd, 1673, mentions "Mary Adderley, my mother, now wife of Mr. John Adderley of Derby."<sup>3</sup> I believe there is a pedigree of this branch of the family recorded in one of the Visitations of Derbyshire.

Richard Adderley was a captain, and Joseph Adderley an ensign, in Colonel Lane's Royalist (Staffordshire) Regiment raised in the Civil Wars.<sup>4</sup>

Grzebrook makes the following additions to the Adderley Pedigree :—

1. Thomas Adderley of Blackhaugh (*i.e.*, apparently the husband of Joan Thirkell) had a daughter Dorothy, who married John Withering of Overton, Staffordshire.<sup>5</sup>
2. Mr. Ralfe Adderley and Mrs. Elizabeth Noell were married at Solihull, Warwickshire, August 3rd, 1609. [He was the son of the first Ralph Adderley of Coton.<sup>6</sup>]
3. Winifred, daughter and one of the heirs of John Adderley of Coton, married Charles Pitfield of Hoxton, Middlesex. [This John was another son of the first Ralph Adderley of Coton.<sup>6</sup>]

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. II, Pt. 2, 13, 21.

<sup>2</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, N.S., V, 260.

<sup>3</sup> W. Deller's *Collection of Wills*.

<sup>4</sup> *Memoirs of Family of Brooke Robinson*. Appendix.

<sup>5</sup> 1633-4 Visitation of London, Harl. Soc.

<sup>6</sup> See the Visitation Pedigree, *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, V, Pt. 2, 5

## 5. ADDES (ADDYES).

Thomas Addes of Great Barr and Aldridge was disclaimed at the 1663-4 Visitation, and the name does not otherwise appear in any of the three Visitations. Nor do I find it in any of the Subsidy Rolls or in the 1539 Muster Roll, and there is no Will of a Staffordshire Addyes before 1660 at Lichfield or (down to 1605) in P.C.C. In Worcestershire, however, the name was not uncommon in the sixteenth century, and occurs even in the thirteenth.

Under these circumstances, it is rather surprising to find that in 1350 John Adys and Alice his wife were suing Walter de Chilterne for a considerable estate (a messuage and two carucates of land) in Great Barr, Wednesbury, and Walsall, which ought to have descended to Alice as heiress of William and Isabel le Wronge.<sup>1</sup> The Plaintiffs failed in their action, and whether they shook the dust of Great Barr from their feet, or whether their descendants remained there in a depressed condition for the next two and a half centuries, I cannot say. But unless we have an Adys in Richard Odys, who stands at the head of the Abbot of Burton's retinue in the Muster Roll of 1539,<sup>2</sup> I have discovered no more of the name in Staffordshire until, in 1613 and 1615, we find<sup>3</sup> Thomas Addyes buying estates at Great Barr and Walsall. He is probably the Thomas Addyes referred to in Burke's *Commoners*<sup>4</sup> as having settled at Barr in the sixteenth century, married a wife named Ann, and become father of:—

1. Thomas Addyes, of whom next ;
2. William Addyes, died without issue ;

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XII, p. 101.

<sup>2</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, N.S., Vol. IV, p. 236.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, N.S., Vols. III and IV.

<sup>4</sup> III, p. 666. The same work also states that he was descended from Sir Degory Addis, Knight, who married Ann, daughter of Thomas Pewtrell, Esq., and died February 27th, 1521. This is very circumstantial, and one is loth to pronounce it a mere piece of embroidery, but "honest Degory" is discreetly absent from *The Knights of England*, and I cannot spare the time to track his wraith to its lair.

3. John Addyes of Perry Barr, married Mary . . . and had a son Thomas, who died without issue, and a daughter Mary, died unmarried.

Thomas Addyes (son<sup>1</sup> of Thomas) the eldest son, married at Knowle on January 30th, 1659, after banns, Mary Grimshawe<sup>2</sup>, daughter of Richard Grimshawe of Knowle in the parish of Hampton and County of Warwick, Gent.<sup>3</sup> This Thomas is called "of Barre, Gent.," in the entry in Aldridge Register recording the above marriage, and it was doubtless he who was disclaimed by Dugdale in the 1663-4 Visitation. He and Mary had issue<sup>4</sup>:—

1. Thomas Addyes, bap. June 30th, 1664, died unmarried.
2. Nicholas Addyes, evidently died young.
3. John Addyes, bap. May 26th, 1668, of whom next.
4. Joseph Addyes, bap. April, 28th 1670, died without issue.
5. Richard Addyes, died without issue.
6. Nicholas Addyes, bap. November 5th, 1674, married . . . Hopkins.
7. William Addyes, married and had issue.
  1. Ann Addyes married . . . Smith, and died without issue.
  2. Mary Addyes married . . . Dolphin, and died without issue.

John Addyes (son of Thomas) was the eldest son, who left issue. He married Mary Hopkins of Moor Hall in Sutton Coldfield, who brought that estate into the family. Their son Thomas Addyes died without issue, and their daughter Ann

<sup>1</sup> But I am not clear that he was son of the Thomas who bought lands in 1613 and 1615, for there seems to be room for an intervening generation. It is even less likely that the *Commoners* is right in making him the son of a Thomas who settled at Barr in the sixteenth century.

<sup>2</sup> Not "Greenshaw" as stated in the *Commoners*.

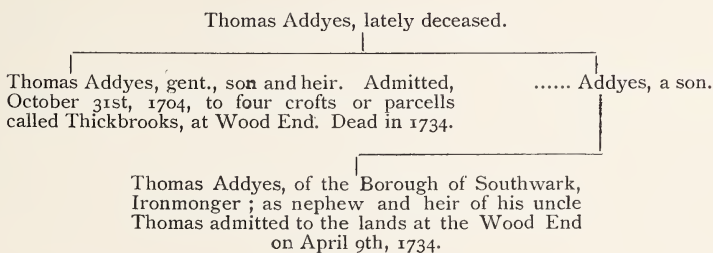
<sup>3</sup> The Registers of Aldridge, as given in Shaw's *Staffordshire*, Vol. II, p. 102.

<sup>4</sup> According to Burke's *Commoners*. The baptisms are taken from the Registers of Aldridge as in the preceding note. In the baptisms of Mary (1662) and Nicholas (1674) Shaw prints the surname without its final "s."



married Richard Scott, and left a daughter Mary, who married Andrew Hacket of Moxhull, Warwickshire. Their second son John, in 1766 took the additional name of Addyes and succeeded to Moor Hall. For full particulars of all which, I must refer my readers to Burke's *Commoners* and *Landed Gentry*, and to Shaw's *Staffordshire*, Vol. II.

Some years ago I compiled the following p edigree from the Court Rolls of Walsall :—



I cannot be positive that this family is identical with that of which I have given the short narrative account ; but if so I suppose that the ironmonger's father was the John (bap. 1668) who married Mary Hopkins.

#### HERALDIC NOTES.

Thomas Addes disclaimed Arms at the 1663-4 Visitation, and I do not know whether he or his descendants displayed any unauthorised armorial bearings on their plate or monuments. If John Hacket had taken out a grant for an Addyes quartering when he assumed the additional surname of Addyes, the fact would probably have been noted in Heraldic Dictionaries.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

I find no mention of any Staffordshire Addyes in the book of Lichfield Marriage Licences, or in Foster's *Alumni Oxonienses*, or in the various printed works I have consulted and indexed.

## 6. AGARD.

In the 1583 Visitation the following persons of this name were summoned<sup>1</sup> :—

George Agard of Barton (under Needwood).

Humfrey Agard of Newborough.

William Agard, Gent., of Tunstall.

In the 1663–4 Visitation Mr. Agard of Dunston was summoned.<sup>2</sup> None of the name appeared, but they were not disclaimed, the reason doubtless being that in each case a descent from the Foston Agards was well understood.

All four summonses were under Offlow Hundred ; “Tunstall” was Dunstall in Tatenhill, often called Tunstall. Tatenhill is in Offlow Hundred, while as to Dunston I can only suggest that Dunston may be a clerical error on the part of the Heralds, though I cannot certify that the Agards were still at Dunstall so late as 1664. In the pedigree I am about to attempt, one can with tolerable certainty include the above William ; but not George, or “Mr. Agard,” though I can give various particulars concerning the former.

The principal family of the Agards was seated for centuries at Foston in Appletree Hundred, Derbyshire ; but as they frequently occur in Staffordshire Records, and intermarried with Staffordshire families, as moreover they were the ancestors of the Dunstall Agards with whom we are more specially concerned, I am almost forced to say something about them.

The name of Agard, which I take to be the same as Haggard and Ogard, appears in Domesday Book, but not in connection with either Derbyshire or Staffordshire. In Worcestershire, however, Acard is recorded as the tenant of Swinford and Pebbemoré (*i.e.*, Old Swinford and Pedmore) under Gervase Paganel.

In 1208 Adam Acharde acted as attorney for Walter and Eva de Witefield of Staffordshire.<sup>3</sup>

In 1272 Walter<sup>4</sup> Akart was sued by William de Ridware for seven acres of meadow in the vill of Draycote near Hanbury, the suit being apparently mixed up with another against the

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. III, part 2, p. 5.    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. V, part 2, p. 338.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. IV, part 2, p. 6.

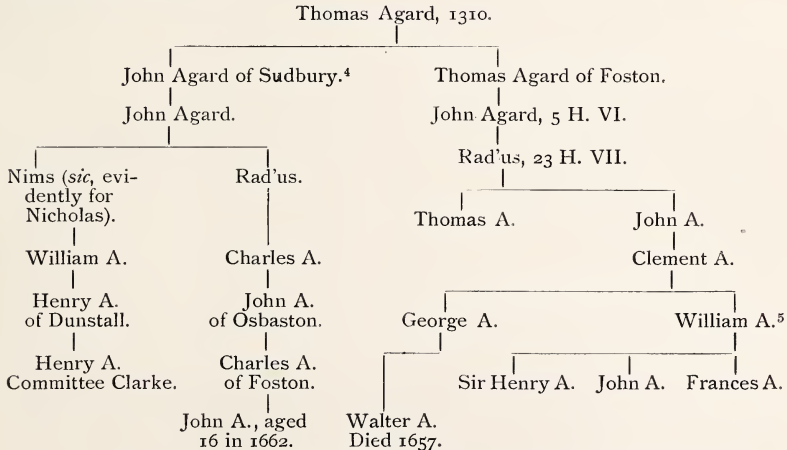
<sup>4</sup> Not “Roger” as in *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XVI, p. 241.

Plaintiff's half-brother, Roger de Ridware. Against the latter Walter Akart defended his title successfully in the same year, but seems to have been worsted by William. The pleadings show that Walter was the son of John Akart and was of Foston.<sup>1</sup>

In 1437 Thomas Agard of Foston, yeoman, and Thomas Makeworth of Makeworth, gentleman, were sued by Sir John Gresley, Knt., and Margaret his wife, to account for their receivership of moneys of the said Margaret.<sup>2</sup>

In 1456 John Agard of Foston, yeoman, was indicted as accessory after the fact to the carrying off by three Radclyffes of Alice daughter of Robert Strangulford. It was decided, however, that the indictment was not sufficient.<sup>3</sup>

Apparently the Agards of Foston endeavoured to trace back their ancestry almost as far as the time of Walter, for an outline or copy of their pedigree entered in the 1662-3 Visitation of Derbyshire appeared in *The Genealogist*, and has at its head "Thomas Agard, 1310." I expect that the original Visitation Pedigree in Heralds' College gives much fuller details, and I trust that it is more correct, for a moment's inspection shows the absurdity of the descent as traced in *The Genealogist*, which is as follows:—



<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XVI, pp. 258-260 ; Vol. IV, 196-7 and 203.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, New Series, Vol. III, p. 140.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 224.

<sup>4</sup> In Derbyshire.

<sup>5</sup> For details of this part of the pedigree see Hardy's *History of Tatenhill*, I, 121.

If the date of the first Thomas Agard were 1410 the pedigree would not be far out in respect of dates,<sup>1</sup> and its substantial accuracy is shown by the evidences I have collected, which are here set out.

### I. WILLS IN P.C.C.

There are no Agard Wills whatever in P.C.C., until: 1613 Ambrose Agard (97 Capell); 1615 Arthur Agard, gent. (78 Rudd); 1616 Stephen Agard, Esq. (110 Cope). Of these, Ambrose and Stephen were of Northamptonshire, while Arthur was the son of Clement Agard of Foston, given in the above pedigree, and was an eminent public official and buried at a great age in Westminster Abbey.<sup>2</sup>

The earliest P.C.C. Will of a Staffordshire Agard is the following:—

William Agarde of Burton-upon-Trent, co. Stafford. No date is given, and the Will was nuncupative. It was proved May 1st, 1616 (52 Cope). The testator left one-half of his goods and chattels to his wife, the other half equally among his children. To son Ralph Agard "an angell in gould." To brother Mr. John Agard "a seale ring of gould."

Proved by Elizabeth Agarde the relict.

### II. WILLS AT LICHFIELD.

The earliest Agard Will at Lichfield is that of John Agard of Foston, proved in 1516, a long and most interesting document. I pass it over, however, as belonging to Derbyshire, together with others which concern that county, and I find that the first Will of a Staffordshire Agard is that of Edmund Agard of Newborough in 1545. I therefore start with it, and give all the Wills, etc., of Newborough and Dunstall Agards down to 1660, together and in order of date:—

(1) Edmund Agard of Newborough in the parish of Hanbury, May 26th, 1545, Administration granted to Alice his relict.

<sup>1</sup> *E.g.*, Clement Agard was aged three in 1518-19 (*The Genealogist*, New Series, Vol. IX), but another generation between him and Walter seems not unlikely, while Nicholas and Ralph of the other line should be, I feel sure, further removed from John of 1662.

<sup>2</sup> *Harl. Soc.*, Vol. X.

(2) Thomas Agard of "Newborow" com. Staff gentilman, dated 5th January, 1556. "Somwhat seycke and dyseysed in body." "My soole to all myghty god our Redeemer and maker and our Bleyssyd Lady sent Mary and all the bleyssyd company of hevyn to pray for me." "To be buried in the parish church of Hanbury of the sothe syde of the church."

Unto the Church of Hanbury 40*l.* to the chappell of Newborow 40*l.*

Unto my brother Mychaell Agard my best blew coote and a peire of russett hoose. Unto my brother Humfrey Agard my beyste blacke coote and a pere of reyd hoose. My sister Jane 5*s.*, my sister Mary 40*l.*, my sister Elizabeth. Ten of the pooryst foolkys in Newborow eu'ry of them 4*l.* Testator's brothers and sisters to have the occupation of the large medow as to which there was "dysseccion betwyxt my mother-in-law and me."

The residue to his wife "Dorethe for to brynge uppe my childern on" until his heir attains the age of twenty-one; and she is to have the same jointure as testator's mother-in-law has under his father's will. "My tow doughters" and "my tow yonger sonnes" each 5 marks for their child's portion.

Executors:—"my wyffe Dorethe Agard and my well belouyd cousen Nicholas Agard of Dunstall.

Overseer:—"my faythfull and well belouyed frend William Marchham Esq."

Witness:—Thomas Wyttyngton gentelman, Robert Fenton, Henry Gretrakys, Richard Newton, John Browne, Henry Holand with others.

Inventory taken February 12th, 3 and 4 Philip and Mary (1557).

(3) Richard Agard of Yoxall; dated March 17th, 1562, proved April 4th, 1562.<sup>1</sup>

"Sowle to Almitzye God, oure ladye Sent Marye and to all the wholye cumpanye of hevyn. My bodye to be buried in what church hyt shall please god to call me owt of this transatorye lyffe."

The friends of Michael Olrych to have in trust for him the house in Bloxwych where John Chate dwells, and Testator's wife Elizabeth is to guarantee the said friends against claims by John Olrych or any other.

Testator's wife Elizabeth is to have for life his lands and tenements in Bloxwych, remainder to father Rauffe Agard and mother Elizabeth Agard for their lives remainder in tail male to brothers Charles and Thomas, remainder to Testator's right heirs. Wife is to have "leash and tacke" of the parsonage of Yoxall. Father Rauffe Agard to have "four sters," of which two are in custody of sister Ann Alyn, and two in father's own custody, also "my best gowne and my fryaddo cote." Brother Charles my bey trottyng geldyng my best dublet and my cut jerkyn. Bequests to god-children. "Also I wyll that eu'ry poore body in Yoxal keypyng howse have four pence." Bequests to men-servants and women-servants within the howse at the day of his death.

<sup>1</sup> The Testator therefore dated his Will according to New Style.

Residue to wife, and she sole Executrix.

Overseers :—Uncle Nicolas Agard, gent., father Rauffe Agard, and Edward Clerke, gent.

Inventory taken 18th April 4 Elizabeth (1562) by John Morres, William Brown, Will Uttyng, Rich. Salloway.

(4) Nycolas Agard of Dunst . . . in the parish of Tatenhill ; dated November 1567, proved 1569.

To be buried in the Chansell of the parish church of Tatenhill by my last wiffe. To Donstall toward their part of the reparacon of the parish church of Tatenhill, 10s. Many bequests to servants. To Wyllm Agard my son and ere my best standyng bede etc. Unto all my god-children within the parish of Tatenhill beryng my name, every one of them 4*d*. Also I wyll that Wyll'm my son withe all profetts to him belonging shalbe at the government and vusyn of Thomas Busbye and my nevey Charles Agard save only the farm of Smeshill. If he refuse, the Executors are to have the profets of the lands for twelve years for payment of testator's debts and augmenting of chelderes parts. Nycholl my son and all his part to be under governance of Denyes Garrard of Colshull until the age of twenty-one. Margrett my daughter to have 20 marks in full discharge of her marege goods and child's part "as was promysed betwyne Howmfre Agarde and mye." Nycolas my son and Marye and Dorothy and Isbell my daughters to have each £13 6s. 8*d*., Catharine my daughter to have £20 at twenty-one.

The Residue to the use of children at discrecioun of Thomas Busbye and Charles Agard my Executors.

Overseers :—Thomas Whittington and Wyll'm Agard my son. Debts owyng by Nycolas Agard, by Mr. Dyott £8 6s. 8*d*., by Kelsall £3, by George Lompe 10s. etc.

(5) William Agard of Dunstall, gent. ; dated 10th January, 1584, proved 6th September, 1585.

All my goods and debts to Margerye my wiffe, to pay unto her own children such portions as I was indebted to pay them : and to pay to my sister Isabell £34, and to sister Dorethie £13 6s. 8*d*. wch two sisters porcons I should and ought to have payed. And for her further assurance I give her £30 of yeirly rent, and a further £20 for nineteen years for the education of my two children and one other child wch my wiffe goeth with, and the £20 to go to the porcons of my natural daughter Elizabeth and the child my wife goeth with and if either of the latter die the porcon to go equally to the sister (*sic*) that liveth and my eldest sonne Henry Agarde.

Executors :—Margerye my wife and Henry my son, and I do will and desire Homfrey Ferrers Esquier, Charles Agard, gent, and Robert Milward, gent, to be overseers. Inventory taken 15th April 27 Elizabeth (1585); Total £382 13s. 8*d*.

(6) George Agarde of Newborough ; 4th May, 1610. Administration granted to Anne his daughter.

(7) Katherine Agard of Newborough, Widow ; will proved 1628.

[Apparently part only of the document is preserved : it begins :—] “ Item I give and bequeath unto Sarah Agard my daughter-in-law and Mary Agarde her daughter twenty shillings.” Peter Agard my son the fether bedde he lieth upon. George Agard and Walter Agard my sonnes £10 a peece. Elnor Godwin, Jane Lassels and Anne Alsopp £10 a peece. Margery Wensly my doughter £10. Katherine Lassels, Robert Wensly and William Wensly my grandchildren 40s. a peece. To the poor of Newboro £10 to remain for ever. To Walter Agard my son and Margery Wensley the interest in my house in Newborrow after the death of William Evans. Edward Norfolk 10s. Nicholas Marson 5s. Three servants Arthur Lane, Elizabeth Wetton, Bridget Addams, half a yeares wages. My son Walter Agard all my bills bonds etc. “Also I will and desire my spetiall good friends and kinsmen, Sr. Henry Agard Knight and Mr. Richard Weston Esquire to be my overseers of this my last will and testament.”

The residue to George Agard and Walter Agard my sonnes equally, and they to be Executors.

Witnesses :—Anne Alsopp, Francis Lee, Peter Agard.

Inventory of Katherine Agard widowe lately deceased in the parish of Hanbury :—Sixe oxen £33. Twoe bullocks £7. Eleaven kyne and one bull £30 etc. Total £203 15s. *od.*

By the aid of the foregoing abstracts and other evidences, I now endeavour to arrange the facts concerning the appearance of various Agards in Staffordshire, and to compile pedigrees of the Dunstall and Newborough branches. Members of the family occur frequently in connection with Final Concords or Fines, but the references to those documents are unsatisfactory because the record often leaves it uncertain whether there was a genuine transfer of the property, or a mere creation of a trust estate.

In 1500 John and Ralph Agard apparently acquired from Lewis Bagot by fine land in Blythebury.<sup>1</sup> . . . I take this John to have been of Foston, the father of Clement, and Ralph to have been perhaps John's brother not mentioned in the pedigree. Had he been Ralph the father of John, his name would hardly have appeared after that of his son.

In 1510 Ralph Agard was in the Commission of the Peace for Staffordshire.<sup>2</sup> . . . He would be again either the father or brother of John of Foston.

In 1537 Thomas Agard, gentleman, acquired by fine from

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XI, p. 254.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, New Series, Vol. VI, 253.

William Mynors and Humphrey Cotton the Manor of Blakenhall, and land in Blakenhall and Barton under Needwood.<sup>1</sup> . . . I am certain that this was only a trusteeship; for nearly sixty years later, in 1594, William Agard, Esquire, acquires by fine from Humphrey Mynors the Manor of Blakenhall and lands in Blakenhall and Barton under Needwood,<sup>2</sup> and the same year he and others release them by fine to Rowland Mynors, gent. There was in 1594 no "Esquire" William Agard, except William of Foston, shown in the pedigree as father of Sir Henry. I therefore conclude that there was some relationship between the families of Agard and Mynors, and that Thomas Agard of 1537 was he who appears in the pedigree already given, as uncle of Clement and great-uncle of William.

I suppose also that it was this Thomas who in 1547 was concerned in a fine dealing with a moiety of the Manors of Handsacre and Pipe Ridware and rents in various places, including Blithebury.<sup>3</sup>

From 1556 to 1577 we find<sup>4</sup> Francis Agard, Esquire, acquiring by fines many considerable estates in Staffordshire, including in 1573 the Manor of King's Bromley from Edward Patrick, Esq. It is evidently he of whom Erdeswick<sup>5</sup> writes that King's Bromley was "sold by Patrick to Francis Agard of Ireland, who left it to his eldest daughter married to William Agard of Foston who is now owner." This William would be the son and heir of Clement, and identical with the William Agard, Esq., who with Mabel his wife in 1588 acquired the Manor of King's Bromley and other estates by fine from Henry Moore, Esquire, and Mary his wife.<sup>6</sup> I have little doubt that Francis (who was a Privy Councillor in Ireland and lies buried in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, near a monument erected by his son-in-law Sir H. Harrington) was a Foston Agard, and that the marriage in question was one between cousins, made for the purpose of keeping estates in the Agard "name and blood." It may here be noted that about 1504-1515 Raffe Agard, no doubt the grand-

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XI, 275.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XVI, 131-133.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XII, 192.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vols. XII, XIII, XIV.

<sup>5</sup> *Erdeswick*, 1820 Edition, p. 234.

<sup>6</sup> Early Chancery Proceedings, Bundle 277, No. 63.



father of Clement, petitioned in Chancery concerning detention of deeds relating to lands in King's Bromley.<sup>1</sup>

Clement Agard himself also had large transactions in Staffordshire estates from 1551 to 1569, and these are duly recorded on the Fine Rolls.

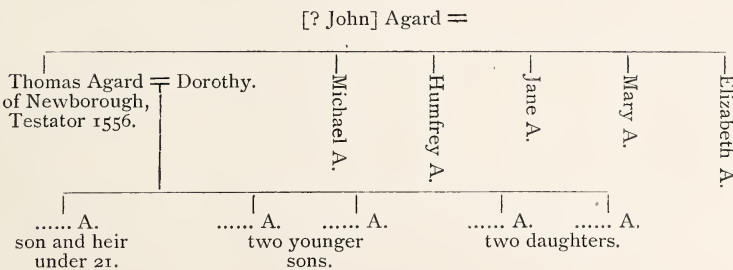
AGARD OF NEWBOROUGH AND DUNSTALL.

I now give the best account I can of the Agards of Newborough and of Dunstall in Tatenhill, who were descended, according to the pedigree given above, from John Agard of Sudbury. Erdeswick says:—"In Newborough is the seat of one Agard" and a note by Harwood<sup>2</sup> to Erdeswick's *History of Staffordshire* states that "Agard's seat was sold by his daughter and heir, who married. . . . Smith of Derby." The first I find is:—

Edmund Agard of Newborough died 1545, leaving a widow Alice (Abstract 1).

Thomas Agard of Newborough comes next. His Will (Abstract 2) dated 1556, and proved 1557-8, speaks of "my cousin Nicholas Agard of Dunstall," so that if "cousin" has here its usual meaning of "nephew," this Thomas would be a son of "John Agard of Sudbury," who heads this branch in the pedigree.

I can best summarise his Will in the following table:—



Probably the Humphrey Agard, gentleman, who (in one case with Margaret his wife dealt by fines with several small estates in Dunstall, Newborough, etc., from 1576 to 1611)<sup>3</sup> was a son

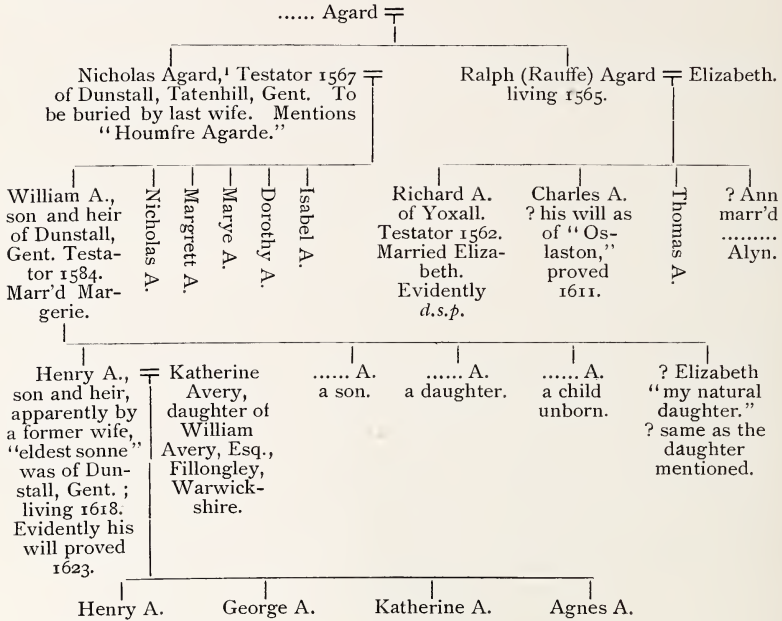
<sup>1</sup> Early Chancery Proceedings, Bundle 277, No. 63.

<sup>2</sup> *Erdeswick*, 1820 Edition, p. 275.

<sup>3</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vols. XIV, XV, and New Series, III.

of this Thomas rather than identical with Thomas's brother Humfrey. I expect that Thomas's son and heir was named Humfrey, and was the Humfrey summoned by the Heralds in 1583.

Abstracts 3, 4, and 5, together with a few other evidences, give the following pedigree, which I put in tabular form for the purpose of easy comparison with the pedigree in *The Genealogist*:—



I take first the descendants of Ralph.

Richard Agard of Yoxall, with his property at Bloxwich, was doubtless the Richard Agard of 1560, complainant in a fine concerning an estate in Great Barr<sup>2</sup>; but George Agard, gent., who in 1582 acquired by fine an estate in Yoxall and Newborough from William and Winifred Rolston was probably of the Foston family which had intermarried with the Rollestons of Rolleston. I take this George also to have been the George

<sup>1</sup> Hardy, *History of Tatenhill*, I, p. 17, states that in Tatenhill Church there are stones to Wm. Agard, who died, according to the Register, in 1585, and to Nicholas Agard ("he was buried in 1563"), two sons and five daughters.—J. C. W.

<sup>2</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XIII, p. 211.

Agard, gent., concerned in fines relating to Barton under Needwood and Hanbury, etc., in 1592, 1601, and 1602<sup>1</sup>; but I cannot say that he was the George Agarde of Newborough, of whom administration was granted at Lichfield in 1610 to his daughter Anne (Abstract 6).

Charles Agard's son John is said in *The Genealogist* pedigree to have been of "Osbaston," but doubtless Osleston in Appletree Hundred, Derbyshire, is meant, and was the place where Charles dwelt at the time of his death. Whether the pedigree is right in stating that Charles, son of this John, was "of Foston" I cannot say; he can hardly have inherited the estate of Foston from his distant cousins. But there certainly was a Charles Agard of Foston, Esquire, High Sheriff of Derbyshire, in 1661, whose two sons, John aged 17 and Charles aged 16, matriculated at Oxford in 1665.<sup>2</sup>

I now come to Nicholas (see note 1, p. 291) and his branch: Possibly he was the Nicholas Agard, an able man with horse, harness, and bill, who stands first of the four men of Sirescote in the 1539 Muster Roll, but he was of Dunstall in 1557 when the first mention of him occurs in the Will of his cousin Thomas. It was probably this Nicholas, who in 1549 acquired by fine nine messuages and some hundreds of acres of land in Newborowe and Agarsley.<sup>3</sup>

His son and heir William was doubtless the William Agard, gent., of Tunstall, summoned by the Heralds in 1583, and was buried at Tatenhill, January 3rd, 1585.

The marriage of William's son Henry with Katherine Avery, daughter of William Avery, Esquire, of Fillongley, Warwickshire, is entered in the 1619 Visitation of that county<sup>4</sup>; and I have obtained from an abstract of his Will<sup>5</sup> the names of the issue of the marriage. Testator leaves £10 to his grand-daughter Katherine Agard "to be set forth" until she is sixteen. He leaves legacies to the other grandchildren, and the residue to his daughter Katherine wife of Henry Agard, and makes her

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XVI.

<sup>2</sup> *Alumni Oxonienses.*

<sup>3</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XII, p. 202.

<sup>4</sup> *Harl. Soc.*, Vol. XII, 407.

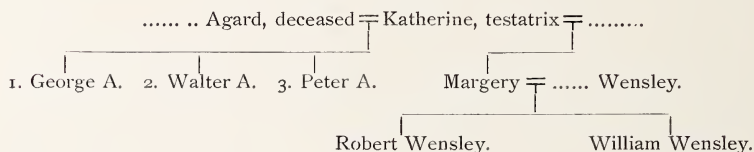
<sup>5</sup> Kindly supplied by Mr. W. Deller of Lichfield.

Executrix. The Will was dated April 18th, and proved by the Executrix May 14th, 1618.

As to Henry Agard himself, I have little doubt that he was the Henry Agard, gent., whose Will was proved in P.C.C. (88 Swann) in 1623.

It was, I suppose, Henry the son of Henry and Katherine who was married at Barton under Needwood on October 3rd, 1629, to Elizabeth Chippingdale. After this date I find no other Agard entries in the Barton Registers; there are a few earlier, but it is surprising to find no further mention of the name in the registers of Tatenhill.

It will be noticed that I have not made use of Abstract 7, the Will of Katherine Agard of Newborough, proved 1628, which gives the following information:—



The testatrix also mentions Sara Agard her daughter-in-law and Sarah's daughter Mary Agard; also "my good friends and kinsmen Sir Henry Agard, Knight, and Richard Weston, Esquire." It is plain therefore that she was the Katherine<sup>1</sup> daughter of Nicholas Barbour of Yoxall called wife of George Agard of Foston in the 1663-4 Visitation. George is shown in *The Genealogist* pedigree as uncle of Sir Henry Agard, and I expect he was the George who died intestate in 1610 as "of Newborough," and that she was his second wife.<sup>2</sup> His son Walter would be the Walter Agard who claimed the Escheatorship of Tutbury, and produced to prove his title an ancient hunting horn, the origin of their hunting horn crest.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, V, pt. 2, p. 31.

<sup>2</sup> In Hanbury Church is a monument to George Agard, *d.* 1608, Katherine his wife, *d.* 1626, and William their son, *d.* 1626: Hardy, *History of Tatenhill*, I, 122.—J. C. W.

<sup>3</sup> For particulars of this claim and horn see Hardy's *History of Tatenhill*, I, 122-4. The tenure seems to date from Walter Agard of 1275-94.—J. C. W.

I have now dealt, I think, with all the references to Agards in the "Final Concords" of Staffordshire hitherto published, and have used all the Lichfield and P.C.C. Wills, etc., of Staffordshire Agards to the end of the sixteenth century.

None of the name appear in the early Subsidy Rolls or the Poll Tax, and only one, Nicholas of Sirescote, in the 1539 Muster Roll.<sup>1</sup>

The book of Lichfield Marriage Licences in the Salt Library I have not examined for Agard references, but I have found no reference other than that I have used either in *The Genealogist*, *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, or the Harleian Society Visitation Volumes.

I have, I hope, without trespassing too much on Derbyshire territory, cleared the ground for those interested in the Agards of Staffordshire, and I have only to add that Kelly's *Directory* gives the name neither among the "Private Residents" or "Farmers" of the latter county, and that the Agards appear to have vanished entirely from this part of the Midlands. It is more surprising still that the name does occur at all in the "Court" or "Commercial" lists in Kelly's *Directory of London* for 190-; but it is possible that the name is sometimes represented by "Agar," for Nicholas Agard of Sirescote already mentioned appears in some Chancery Pleadings<sup>2</sup> as "Agarr," and it is stated<sup>3</sup> that the Agards of Yorkshire were the ancestors of the titled Irish family of Agar.

There has been put into my hands the pedigree of an Agard

<sup>1</sup> Sir Reginald Hardy states that Nic. Agard held closes in Newborough and Anslow in 20 Edward IV., *History of Tatenhill*, I, 120. The Court Rolls which he prints give also the following:—

1494. Nic. Agard surrenders land in Tatenhill to the use of John Agard and Joan his wife, and Nicolas the son of John (II, 136).

1517. John Agard of Foston, who held land in Barton and Dunstall by royal charter, died more than a year before, and John Agard, son of Ralph, son of the said John, was his heir aged twenty-six and more (II, 179).

1532. John Agard was seized of land in Barton, is dead, and Nicholas his son and heir is of full age (II, 208).—J. C. W.

<sup>2</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, N.S., IX, p. 79.

<sup>3</sup> *Yorkshire Arch. Soc.*, Vol. XIII, p. 77.

Family descended from Francis Agard of Borrowash Mills near Derby, born 1760. Its members are dispersed from Manchester to Bedford and as far as San Francisco, so that the surname is in a fair way to survive, though the pedigree needs a few links.

#### HERALDIC NOTES.

We have seen that the Agards of Foston were yeomen as late as 1456 ; so their coat of arms was doubtless a grant made in the Tudor period ; it was :—*Argent, a chevron gules between three boars' heads coupéd close sable*, and is ascribed in Burke's *Armory* to Agard of Foston and Agard of Lancashire. By the latter we are, I suppose, to understand Ambrose Agard, Esq., whose Will, proved in 1613, describes him as “of the Forest of Bolland” (Lancashire), and shows that he was a Northamptonshire Agard. Whether his family claimed descent from the Agards of Foston I cannot say, and I am equally ignorant as to the origin of the Agards of Huntington, Yorkshire, whose pedigree begins with John Agard of Stockton who died 1636. Nor can I suggest any reason for the adoption of the chevron and boars' heads by the Foston Agards other than mere fancy on the part of some herald. For their crest, however, there seems to be the curious explanation to which I have already referred.

## 7. ALDRICHE.

Two generations only of his pedigree were entered in the 1663-4 Visitation by Jonah Aldriche of Weightmore, which place is evidently Wetmoor near Burton-on-Trent; and otherwise the name does not appear in any of the three Visitations.

The surname is evidently derived from Aldridge in the south of the county, and there was a William son and heir of William de Alrewich in 1302-3 who held Alrewich (*i.e.*, Aldridge) of Felicia de Barr,<sup>1</sup> and may have represented Drew of Aldridge, who flourished a century earlier. In 1332-3 William de Alerwych of Alerwas<sup>2</sup> should probably have appeared as de "Alerwas" (*i.e.*, Alrewas) where he lived, and the same perhaps holds good of John Alrewich, a "serviens" whom we find there or thereabouts in 1379-80. It would be, I think, between these two dates that William Mountford of Coleshill in Warwickshire married Joan, daughter of William de Alderwych,<sup>3</sup> and in 1343, we find William de Allerwych and Agnes daughter of Robert de Stepelton settling the Manor of Allerwich (*i.e.*, Aldridge) on themselves and their issue, with remainder to Henry Hillary, Chivaler, for life, and a further remainder to Henry's son Edward and his heirs for ever.<sup>4</sup> No Aldridges appeared at the Muster of 1539, and though there are many Wills of the name at Lichfield, the testators all belong to Warwickshire, and mostly to Polesworth and Seckington, until in 1649 we come to the Wills of Edward Aldridge of Abbots Bromley and Walter Aldridge of Longdon. In April, 1657, there is calendared an Inventory of Robert Aldridge of "Whitmore," which probably refers to Jonah's father who died in March of that year.

There are no sixteenth century Wills of any Staffordshire Aldridge in P.C.C., and I therefore content myself with the following abstract of the above-mentioned Will of Edward Aldridge:—

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. I, 203.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. X, 84.

<sup>3</sup> *Visitation of Staffordshire, Harl. Soc.*, Vol. XII.

<sup>4</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XI, 153.

Edward Aldridge of Bromley Hurst co. Stafford, yeoman; dated 16th September, proved October 23rd, 1649. To be buried in the Church of Bromley, near to my wife. To my sons Roger, James, and William Aldridge 12*d.* each, to my daughters Mary and Elizabeth 12*d.* The residue to my son Edward Aldridge and my daughters Ann and Frances Aldridge equally. Executor my son Edward Aldridge. Witnesses:—Tho. Norris, William Alport, and Tho. Brasier. Inventory dated September 19th, 1649, amounts to £48 1*s.* 8*d.* Appraisers:—Tho. Norris, William Alport, John Plimer, and Edward Addams. Proved by the Executor.

The various works and calendars, etc., that I have consulted throw no light on the Aldriche pedigree. "Mrs. Anne Aldridge" is mentioned in the Will<sup>1</sup> dated 1657 of Antony Moore, who seems to have been in the employ of Sir John Wyrley of Hamstead, Staffordshire, and she may have been the mother of Jonah Aldriche. The name also prevailed in Derbyshire, for the Will<sup>2</sup> of Robert Aldridge of Melbourne, gent., was proved in 1566, and in 1694 Richard Alldridge had licence to marry Sarah Insley at Ticknall.

Among the marriage licences at Lichfield are the three following:—

- 1683. William Aldridge to marry Joan Gopsall at Tamworth.
- 1684. William Aldridge to marry Sarah Walker at Shenstone or Aston, juxta Birmingham.
- 1687. Ralph Alldridge to marry Sarah Marshall at Yoxall or Hampstall Ridware.

<sup>1</sup> P.C.C., Wootton, 23.

<sup>2</sup> P.C.C., Crymes, 31.



# REVIEWS.

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*Close Rolls.* Henry III., 1234-1237.

H.M. Stationery Office, 1908.

The Staffordshire men most prominent in this volume are the mad hereditary forester, Hugh de Loges of Rodbaston, and the Marcher Lord, Henry de Audley. The King sends Hugh three huntsmen and deerhounds to take "50 bissas (hinds) ad opus domini Regis"; he orders him to supply the custodian of the bridge at Wichnor with 3 oaks to repair the bridge, and to supply 30 oaks from the forests of Alrewas, Hopways, and Bentley to the Friars Minor at Lichfield for the building of their houses and chapel there. In 1235, he is instructed to give leave to Ralph Basset of Drayton to assart 50 acres of his wood lying "inter Burne et Watlingestrete." These matters pertained to his official position. We have also the following private suit of his which finds no place in the Staffordshire Plea Rolls:—"Hugo de Log' attornavit Henr. de Lilleburn contra Aviciam de Otherton Robertum de Linehull et Sybillam uxorem ejus et Rob. le Orb, de eo quod idem Hugo aquietet predictos A., R., S. and R. de servicio quod Herveus Bagod exigit ab eis de libero tenemento suo quod de predicto Hugone tenent in Otherton and Linehull. Teste rege apud Westm. XIX die Marcii" (1237).

As for Henry de Audley he had the debts of his shrievalty remitted in 1234; in 1235 he has permission to import his crops from his Irish lands freely into England; in 1237, his service in Cheshire is alleged as an excuse for postponing the suit that Giles de Erdington was bringing against him for the manor of Shawbury (Salop).

After the death of John of Huntingdon, Earl of Chester, Audley was appointed by Letter Close of 22nd June, 1237, custodian of the castles of Chester and Beeston. He was twice treating for peace with Llewelyn of Wales, first in company with Fulk Fitzwarren and Hervey Bagod of Stafford in 1237, and again with the Bishop of Coventry, Wm., Earl of Albemarle, and Ralph Mortimer at Shrewsbury in 1237. Hervey Bagod died the year after his appointment, and on 14th June, 1237, the sheriff is instructed to remit to his widow, Petronella, "quia gravida est et ta vicina partui," the homage due from her for her dower.

The aftermath of the rebellion of Richard, the Earl Marshal, comes into this volume. Hugh de Burg, Earl of Kent, has restored to him, in 1237, the Manor of Arley, and on 14th November, 1234, the King grants to Philippa, Countess of Warwick, wife of Richard Siward, those six librates of land in Stanefeld (Alstonefield) which he had forfeited in the time of this civil war. It may be mentioned that the Index gives "Stanefeld" wrongly as "Stone-field in Stoke-on-Trent." Philippa, the widow of Henry, Earl of Warwick, was

eldest dau. and co-heiress of Thos. Basset of Hedonden by Philippa, eldest dau. and co-heiress of the Barony of Malbanc of which Alstonefield formed a member. She is called Philippa Malbanc in Vol. IV of these collections.

The scutage for marrying the King's sister to the Emperor of Germany was levied in 1235. Vol. VII, New Series, should be corrected, in that Gen. Wrottesley, in his history of the Okeovers, has accidentally placed this scutage in 1242, and thereby post-dated the death of Robert de Okeover which should be given as 1235 for the reasons there stated. This explains why his son was knighted in 1241. (*Staff. Colls.*, VII, N.S., 16.) The collectors of the scutage for County Stafford were Rob. de Grendon and Rob. de Essington, Kts. The collectors in 1237 of the 30th from the county were Rob. de Halghton, Rob. de Knihteleg, Rob. de Essington, Rob. de Swinnerton and Wm. de Wyrley, Clerk.

Commissions of Knights were also told off to determine the county boundaries between Handsworth and Aston Manor; between Seisdon and Tressel and Claverley in Salop; and between Tong and the lands of Hugh de Weston in Weston. This is an early mention of Hugh de Weston, and we find him again in these rolls, imprisoned in Stafford Gaol with one Henry de Mer', appealed for the murder of Wm., son of John Gille. He is released by letter close of 1235.

With reference to the sheriffs of this period, we find John fitzPhilip of Barlaston, on April 29th, 1235, sent to tell the custodian of Bridgnorth to let the Sheriff, Rob. de Haya, have a dole of wine; and on November 14th, 1236, John l'Estrange is ordered to take over the custody of Bridgnorth from Rob. de la Haye. Another custodian mentioned is Gilbert, son of Stephen de Segrave the Chancellor. He has debts remitted in 1237 due from him while custodian of Newcastle-under-Lyme. And in connection with Newcastle we discover in this volume for the first time a park, enclosed by Ranulf, Earl of Chester, and apparently including Bradwell Wood. After the death of the Earl, when the manor reverted to the Crown, the King had apparently sparked it.

*“Pro Abbate de Hulton.—Rex Constabulario suo Novi Castro sub Lima salutem. Scias quod per inquisitionem factam per preceptum nostrum acceperimus quod quedam pars bosci, quam Abbas de Hulton clamat suam esse de dono Henrici de Aldithel in Ruston (Grange), et quod R. quondam comes Cestrie and Linc' inclusit infra parcum predicti castri cum (quando) manerium Novi Castri esset in manu sua, est de dominico grangie predicto abbatis de Ruston, et quod predictus comes predictam partem bosci inclusit infra predictum parcum de permissione predictorum abbatis et Henrici. Et quia predictus parcus prostratus est de precepto nostro, tibi precipimus quod eidem abbati de predicta parte bosci talem seisinam habere facias qualem inde habuit antiquam esset inclusa infra predictum parcum. Teste rege apud Waverl', II die January (1235).”*

It is at Newcastle also that “Avicia mulier” is with the consent of the Bishop, the parson and the King admitted a recluse to the church on July 8th, 1237. Among other ecclesiastical intelligence we find Philip, Abbot of

Roucester, as early as 1235; and in 1237 there is a Prior of Dudley who has been excommunicated by the Bishop and apparently done penance and so avoided the arm of the civil law. It was as "valletus" to the Archbishop of Dublin that Andrew Blunt, who figures so largely in the Plea Rolls in Vol. IV of these collections, gained his position. He is exempted from taking up knighthood in 1235, and he is described in one place as Andrew of Sandon. We have a mention, too, of Matilda as wife of Walter de Ridware in 1237. He died about 1240, and by collating the Plea Rolls we see that she afterwards married Oliver d'Eyncourt.

In conclusion, the Letters show that the King passed through Staffordshire in 1235 and again in 1237. He was at Burton on September 12th, Lichfield, September 15th, and Birmingham on the 16th September, 1235; at Nottingham on October 6th and 7th, Lichfield, October 10th, and Birmingham on October 11th, 1237. The Burton, Lichfield, Birmingham road must have been a fair highway in those days and may account in some small degree for the growth of Birmingham. These rolls are given in full in Latin. When the early form of the names here appearing is considered Mr. Maskelyn's index, in which only one minute mistake can be found, is little less than marvellous.

J. C. W.

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*Feudal Aids, 1284-1431. Vol. IV. Stafford—Worcester.*

H.M. Stationery Office, 1908.

This is the fourth volume of what is commonly called Kirby's Quest, and it deals with Staffordshire feudatories of 1284/5, 1316, 1401/2, and 1428. The first of these lists has already been used by General Wrottesley when determining the Knight's fees in the Liber Niger, see *Staff. Colls.*, Vol. I. This important list of 1284/5 has evidently been taken from a bad transcript of the original returns, and it is regrettable that when printing these returns efforts have not been made to restore the correct readings by making a comparison with such a work as Gen. Wrottesley's. Some of the more complicated corruptions are as follows;—Leyton for Church Eyton, Heresardon for Beresardon, Hosyleye for High Offyleye, Mulneceyeys for Mulnemeceys, Clutculne for Chatculne, Hyndon for Slyndon, Gammthorn and Wolteleg for Tammthorn and Wolseleg, Frest for Freford, Kenestar for Kenefar, Belinton for Bobinton, Ralph Basset's Barony was of Weledon not "Melton"; and in the Entry "Stendon.—Heres Radulphi de Stendon tenet manerium de Stendon (Standon)" one would hardly recognize Shendon.—Heres Radulphi de Grendon tenet manerium de Shendon (Shenstone), which must be what the original scribe wrote. The later lists are less corrupt or have been corrected in the Corrigenda. They are also of less value.

Some day it will be necessary to bring General Wrottesley's work on the Liber Niger up to date by tracing the Staffordshire manors and their lords through the Testa de Nevil and these subsequent feudatories with the full annotation they deserve. Meanwhile, it will be well to indicate the new

manors that subinfeudation has set up by 1284-5, and that have been created out of the Royal Manors since the date of the Liber Niger. The lists in this volume are given by Hundreds, but in the following lists of those new manors not mentioned in *Staff. Colls.*, Vol. I, I have followed the practice there adopted of giving them according to Baronies.

## 1284-5.

## BARONY OF THE BISHOP OF COVENTRY.

Joh. Gyffard tenet Chylington de Ric. fil. Joh. pro di. f. and idem R. de Epis.

Thos. de Engleton tenet Engleton pro  $\frac{1}{4}$  f. de eadem libertate.

Rob. de Halton tenet Tounskall de predicto epis. pro  $\frac{1}{4}$  f. (? Tunstal in Eccleshall).

Wm. de Badinghale tenet Badinghale de dicto epis. pro  $\frac{1}{10}$  f.

Joh. de Parva Sengenull tenet eam et Derweslowe de epis. pro  $\frac{1}{8}$  f.

Roesia de Piuelesden tenet Flotusbrok (de epis.).

Hugo de Knytton tenet de Ric. de Draycote Knyttton pro  $\frac{1}{5}$  f. and idem R. de epis.

Simon de Acton tenet in Bedenhall and Brocton de epis.  $\frac{1}{4}$  f.

Nic. Baro. Stafford tenet in Acton  $\frac{2}{3}$  f. de epis.

Rob. de Somervill tenet in Ourbor (Harbourne)  $\frac{1}{4}$  f. de epis.

Wm. Ruffus tenet in Coldecote  $\frac{1}{2}$  f. de epis.

Roger Duredent tenet  $\frac{1}{5}$  f. in Fisserwik de epis.

Rad. Pano tenet in Curbur'  $\frac{1}{15}$  f. de epis.

Roger de Lisewis tenet in Langedon  $\frac{1}{6}$  f. de epis.

Rob. del Wall tenet in le Wall  $\frac{1}{16}$  f. de episc.

Thos. de Hamstud tenet in Essemersbrock  $\frac{1}{8}$  f. de episc.

Joh. Dayli tenet in Wirley and Longenouer  $\frac{1}{4}$  f. de episc. (This may refer to Longnor-upon-Severn, co. Salop, see *Staff. Colls.*, Vol. I, p. 156.)

The Bishop's demesne was in Brewood, Heywood, Eccleshall, Longsdon and Lichfield, while Ruggele and Canockbury were added in the 1316 list.

## BARONY OF STAFFORD.

Ric. de Blitefeld et Rob. de Wolsleg tenet Bertherton pro  $\frac{1}{4}$  f. de Philippa de Heneis (Hentis) et eadem Philippa de predicto Nicholao bar. de Stafford.

Matila Deveros tenet Lungenelre pro 1 f. de predicto Nicholao.

Nicholaus de Audleye tenet Hulton, Ruston et Burwardeslyme pro 1 f. de pred. baro.

Ric. de Tilington tenet Tilington de Roger de Peyton pro 1 f. et idem Ric. de predicto barone.

His demesne was in Bradley and Madeley.

## BARONY OF SOMERY OF DUDLEY.

Thos. de Bosco tenet Wodeton pro  $\frac{1}{4}$  f. de Rogero de Somery.

John de Sellesleye, Nich. de Bosco, Adam fil. Hugonis, Rob. fil. Ric. tenent villam de Sellesleg de Rob. de Esengton pro  $\frac{1}{4}$  f. et idem Rob. de Rob. de Wyston, et idem Rob. de Rogero de Somery.  
 Prior Beate Thome juxta Stafford tenet villam de Pendeford per socagium de Rogero de Somery.  
 The Baron had demesne in More (Meertown) Dudley, Sedgley, Swinford, Clent and Mere.

## BARONY OF VERDON.

Roger de Bydoulf, Hen. de Verdon, Rob. de Knypresleg tenent Bydoulf de Theo. de Verdon, set non fit mencio per quod servicium.  
 Theobald de Verdon tenet Boukkunhall cum Bydoulf de rege, set non fit...  
 Adam de Moucleston tenet Moucleston per socagium de Rob. de Knyttleleg pro 1, s., et idem Rob. de Theo. de Verdon.

## BARONY OF FERRERS.

The Ferrers Barony was in a state of flux curiously illustrated by this feudatory. Edmund Mortimer, we are told, holds of the gift of King Henry the whole honour of Ferrers. Eleanor de Ferrers herself holds Chartley of the King, "nomine dotis sue." Another manor which appears attached to Chartley is Gayton, where the seignury of Ferrers can only be inferred. "Thos. Meverell, Roger de Marchinton, Rad. de Mumsye, Hen. de Kneveton, Ric. de Draycot, Joh. de Grendon tenent Gayton *de Charteley*, et Charteleg de rege." Wm. de Stafford, Wm. Trumwyn, and Ric. le Butler hold Sandon<sup>1</sup> "de Edmundo cum pertinenciis apud Linespel de honore de Ferrariis." Chebsey, Wichnor, Sirescot, and Newbold are all given as held "of Edmund of the honor of Tutbury," but whether this was Edmund Mortimer, or Edmund the King's brother, or Edmund de Ferrers is doubtful from the record. Both Harlaston and Clifton Camvill are clearly stated to be still held by Edmund de Ferrers, but in the 1316 list all of them, except Chartley and Gayton, are given as being in the Liberty of Earl of Lancaster, and Newcastle, Alstonefield, Uttoxeter, Mayfield, Manlinton, Tutbury, Rolleston, Burton, Yoxall (held by Rob. de Holond as undertenant), and Newborough as well.

## FITZALAN BARONY.

There seems to have been no new subinfeudations in this barony in Staffordshire, so far as our scanty knowledge of the original manors goes. Blithfield, by what I think must be a clerical error, is put down as held by Ric. de Blythefeld of "John de Ferrers," but Newton in Blithfield is correctly held by Hugh de Weston of the Fitzalan Barony.

## OTHER FEES.

The Basset and Wemme Baronies call for no special remarks. As for the old Honour of Chester, with the end of the Earldom the mesne tenants have become tenants in chief. Drayton and Pattingham are held by Basset, of Drayton, of Basset of Weledon; though, in the case of Pattingham, Roger de Somery has interposed his tenure between the two Bassets. Elford is

<sup>1</sup> As coheirs of Warin de Vernon, Baron de Shipbrook.

now held of the Barony of Montalt by Peter de Arderne. Harlaston and Clifton show Ferrers as chief lord, though he vanishes in the subsequent list; Alstonefield is shared by Audley and Despencer, while in 1316, at all events, Leek is held in chief by the Abbot of Deulacres, Endon by Audley, and Cheddleton by William de Chettleton under Audley.

Most of the Royal Manors have been alienated since 1166. Hugh le Blunt has got Penkridge, Roger de Somery holds Meertown for £10; for £15 Rob. de Somervil holds Alrewas; Philip Marmiun of Tamworth farms Wigginton for life at a rent of £35; John de Heronvill holds Wednesbury of Hugh de Plescy (heir of the d'Oilli Barony), which d'Oilli had had in exchange for Stonesfield in co. Oxon. Walsall was held in farm for £4 by Roger de Morteyn and by John Paynel on behalf of Margaret le Russe his wife. For the same sum Thos. Corbet held King's Bromley. By serjeanty John fitzPhilip holds Kinver, and John de Perton holds Perton. For 40 marks Roger de Somery has Swinford, Clent and Mere. Wm. de Ethug (?) has Rowley Regis in soccage, and the tenure of Arley by Edmund de Mortimer at this time, 1284, implies that his daughter, who had this Manor later, was not then married to Walter de Balaon her first husband.<sup>1</sup>

Among the ecclesiastical fees given in 1284, which do not occur in the earlier feudatories, are Whiston in Penkridge, held by Rob. de Whiston of the Abbey of Burton; Little Sardon, held by the same undertenant of the Prior of Dudley, who holds of the prior of Much Wenlock; Abbots Bromley held by the Abbot of Burton in chief; Marston near Stafford, where the Prior of Ware has taken the place of the Domesday "Church of St. Ebrulf" as undertenant of the ancient Robert of Belesme, Earl of Salop; Fulford, held by Ric. de Lee of the prior of Malvern and by him of the Abbey of Westminster.

The lords of the various hundreds are given in the 1316 list. Hugh de Audley jun. is already of Totmanslow; John de Knockyn holds Pirehill, Ric. de Weeford holds Offlow, and Wm. Flemyng, Cuttlestone. Seisdon is in the King's hands. This list shows too Thos. de Pipe as custos of the Stafford Barony at that date, and we get the additional information that John de Grey held Erlide (Yarlet). The mention of Wm. de Mere as lord of Norton-le-Moors in 1316 and Wm. de Norton lord of the same in 1284 induces me to think that these two confusing persons were really one.

The 1401-2 list caused by an abortive scutage for the marriage of the King's daughter Blanche is of little interest. The account such as it was was rendered by Wm. Newport, the Sheriff, John Swynerton, escheator, Sir Thos. Aston and Nic. Leveson of Wilnhall. John Delves is given as one of those who held of the King *sine medio*; his fee was Bucknall and Fenton. Thos. Gruffith had replaced Somervil at Alrewas, and Ferrers of Groby was lord of Tettenhall.

The inquisition of 1428 is directed to John Boughay of Whitmore, Ric.

<sup>1</sup> She was living, married to de Balaon, in 1286-7, and by 1288 was married to Hugh de Audley; *Complete Peerage*, New Edition, I, 347.

Chambre de Felde, Ric. Selmon of Moreton, John Assheby of Stafford, Wm. Salford of Hampton, John More of Penkridge, Thos. Bret of Dimsdale, and Rob. Congreve of Congreve. Most of the matter recorded deals with the various churches round Stafford and with their value—the Church and cemetery of St. Mary, and the Church and cemetery of St. Bertolin—with their prebends and chapels. In the list of Knights' fees, Thomas Stanley appears at Elford, Humphrey Lowe is at Tressel, and John Mollesley at Mollesley.

J. C. W.

*Calendar of Close Rolls.* Edward I., 1302–1307.

H.M. Stationery Office, 1908.

The last years of Edward I. were spent in a perpetual struggle in Scotland against Wallace and Bruce. At home things were more peaceful, papal pretensions were kept under, and even the Barons were reduced to order.

The head and forefront of the opposition, Roger Bigod, the Earl Marshall, died in 1306. We find from this volume that the second wife of the Earl, Alina, daughter and heiress of Philip Basset the Justiciar, last Baron of Wycombe, died without issue in 1304. The Bassets are well represented throughout this volume. Ralph Basset, the successor of that Basset of Drayton slain at Evesham, was Captain of Blaye in Gascony when that province was reoccupied in 1298. He died on the last day of the century, and his son Ralph or Raulyn was a minor. The wardship was given to Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, who died the next year, and then, on payment of a fine of 1,000 marks to the Executors of the Earl, Raulyn, though still under age, was allowed to have seisin of his lands and the right to marry. Hugh Despencer, the Earl of Warwick, and John de Grey of Rotherfield were among those who paid the 1,000 marks for Basset, and he married Warwick's daughter Joan. John de Grey was Basset's grandfather. By letter Close of 1306 the Sheriffs of Staffs and Warwick are directed to summon a jury of Knights to delimit the boundaries of Basset's manor of Drayton and of Amynton in Warwick, the manor of John de Clinton. He appears in all the Scotch wars, though he retired from some of them prematurely. He was one of those pardoned in 1307 for deserting the King in Scotland in the previous year; doubtless in the train of Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, who was pardoned at the same time. In Edward II.'s reign he became Steward of Aquitaine, Constable of Dover, and Warden of the Cinque Ports.

Richard Basset of Weledon, the lord of Madeley Alfac, also occurs in these letters, and as the pedigree of this house is given incorrectly in G. E. C.'s *Complete Peerage*, it may be as well to state here that he was the son of Ralph Basset and Eleanor, daughter and co-heiress of Henry de la Wade; that he succeeded as a minor in 1293, and that, when he was slain at Struyvelyn Castle in Scotland in 1314, his four sons, Ralph, Ralph, Richard, and Roger, were all under age. His eldest son, it may be mentioned, died *s.p.* in 1341/2, and Ralph, issue of his second son, succeeded. This is the second occasion on which pride in their founder led the Basset family to repeat for the two eldest sons the name of Ralph, which so complicates their pedigree.

Another famous warrior of the age was Hugh de Audley. He had a grant in 1303, "because he was with the King in his service in Scotland"; in 1305 he was acquitted of a debt for £50 spent in buying armour for his journey to Gascony, "on consideration of his good service there"; and in 1306, as Justice of North Wales, he arranges for ships for the King's last journey to Scotland. No mention of these services occur in General Wrottesley's *Military Service of Staffordshire Tenants* in Vol. VIII. We meet again in this volume with the unattached James, son and heir of James de Audley. (Vol. IX, N.S., 258.) In 1306 he was of age, had been a minor at his father's death, and held the manor of Farley (co. Sussex) of John, Duke of Brittany.

There are few notices of Staffordshire men. John de Swynnerton of Hilton, and Anne his wife, daughter of Philip de Montgomery, has seisin in 1306 of her paternal lands, and of the bailiwick of the Forest of Cannock. In 1303, John, son and heir of Peter Mauveysin, has seisin of his father's lands and serjeanty of Nuneaton; in 1305 Alex. de Norton (le Moors) witnesses a deed, and Reginald de Charnes acts as Attorney for Roger Mortimer; in 1303 one John Shayl is imprisoned at Stafford for the death of William de Peshale; and, in the same year, Roger de Verdon acknowledges that he owes to John de Morton 5 marks, to be levied, in default of payment, of his lands and chattels in co. Stafford.

Perhaps the most interesting entry is one which establishes the fact that in Staffordshire, in 1303, Sheriffs were elected by the "Coroners and Community." It runs as follows:—

To the coroners and all the community of the counties of Salop and Stafford. Order to elect a sheriff for those counties who shall be more suitable than Richard de Harlegh,<sup>1</sup> whom they lately elected, in accordance with the King's grant to the people of his realm that they shall have, if they wish, the election of sheriffs in every county of the realm where there is no sheriff of fee, as Richard is insufficiently qualified as the King learns, and to present the sheriff thus to be elected by a lawful and circumspect man on their behalf with their letters patent, under the seals of six of the more discreet and upright knights of those counties to the treasurer and barons of the exchequer on the morrow of Michaelmas next, so that he may, after taking the oath according to custom, there do and exercise what pertains to the office of sheriff of those counties. They are informed that if they do not then present a person thus elected, the treasurer and barons will provide the King with another sheriff to be set over those counties.

It was evidently one thing to get the right to elect sheriffs, and quite another to get the King to accept his intellectual attainments. I should doubt if the coroners and community took the trouble to have any further election, for which succeeding generations may well be thankful. Elective judges have their drawbacks in modern America, in mediæval England the results would have been far more deplorable.

A late instance of tallaging the Royal Demesnes is found in the Close

<sup>1</sup> Sheriff, 1st October, 1300, till 1st October, 1303.



Rolls of 1305, and at the same time tenants in chief of antient domain of the crown were allowed to "reasonably" tallage their victims. Letters Close go out to this effect to the Sheriff of Staffs, allowing the master of the Templars to tallage Keel, and the Earl of Lancaster to tallage Newcastle-under-Lyme, Peynkel, and Wolstanton, and also allowing the sheriff himself to tallage "his manor of Wygynton." Does this not imply that this Royal Manor was allocated to the sheriffs, perhaps in some way in place of the old Sheriffs Aid? The tenants at Walsall, Roger de Morteyn and Thomas le Rus, while they did not succeed in tallaging their villeins, did at least succeed in avoiding being tallaged themselves, proving that they held by Royal Charter, in contradistinction no doubt to the *socemanni regis*. It appears that this manor had been granted in 1290 to John Paynel and Margery his wife, that it was settled on Margery for life with remainder to her son Thomas le Rus. From 1296 to 1300 Margery was being tried for her life for the murder of her husband. She was acquitted, but by 1304 her son Thomas had succeeded to her moiety.

There are a number of Letters Close in the following form:—

10 June, 1303. To the Sheriff of Stafford. Order to cause Hugh le Blunt to have seisin of a messuage in Penkridge, as the King learns . . . that the messuage, which Henry le Keu, who was outlawed for felony, held, has been in the King's hands for a year and a day, and that Henry held it of Hugh, and that it is still in the King's hands, and that Hugh has had the king's year and a day thereof, for which he ought to answer to the King.

Under like circumstances Mag. John Everdon, Dean of St. Peter's, Wolverhampton, had in 1304 seisin of land in Codsall, Nic. "in the Hale," who held of Master John, having been outlawed; likewise 5 acres which Henry son of Henry atte Heath, outlaw, held of him in Hatherton. The townships of Codsall and Hatherton had had the year and a day waste, for which they had to account to the King. The same Master John, in 1306, had seisin of the lands of a hanged felon John, son of Nic. Lauerence in Wednesfield, who held of him; the township of Wednesfield had had the King's year and a day and had to account as usual. Also the Abbot of Burton in the same way got land in Abbots Bromley, which Robert Petit, outlaw, had held of him.

This dean, John of Everdon, was one of the King's household. He was assessor of tallage in many counties; fermor of Bolsover Castle; and keeper of the exchange of London and Canterbury.

Several entries in this volume insist on the privileges of the King's Free Chapels,—their exemption from all ecclesiastical jurisdiction and visitation by the ordinary, and from all papal exactions. Staffordshire seems to have had an undue proportion of these immune chapels,—Stafford, Penkridge, Wolverhampton, Tettenhall, Womborne are mentioned. Elsewhere there were St. Martins le Grand, and chapels at Gloucester and in Hastings Castle. So jealous was King Edward of any ecclesiastical interference that, when the

<sup>1</sup> John de Acton, Sheriff at the time, had no personal connection with Wiggington.

Archbishop himself made an attempt to force a personal visitation at Hastings, he found the door shut in his face by the Keeper of the Castle. The Archbishop promptly excommunicated the keeper and the canons of the chapel as well. "The King, being unable to bear with equanimity such insolence and such enormous wrongs, orders the Archbishop to be before him . . . to answer for the excesses thus committed notoriously against him . . . and to do and receive further what the King's court shall consider in this behalf" (1305). On the other hand a filed acknowledgment that the Prior of Stone owed £24 to Justice Ralph de Hengham shows that the common prior had to buy justice like an ordinary mortal.

It may be worth noticing that, while Eyton, in his *Staffs Domesday* speaks of the King's "Haye of Clive" as being associated with Cliff Vale and the serjeanty of the Muriels in North Staffs, yet from this volume I should judge that the Haye was really in Northampton, and was represented by the Forest of King's Clive there. I have only found one mistake in the Index; Ercall is in Salop, not Staffs.

J. C. W.

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*Calendar of Patent Rolls.* Richard II., 1396-99.

H.M. Stationery Office, 1909.

There are few periods of English History more interesting than that covered by this volume. After careful preparation Richard II., in July, 1397, arrested his uncle the Duke of Gloucester and the Earls of Arundel and Warwick. One he caused to be murdered, another was beheaded on Tower Hill, and the third was banished for life. Thus was he avenged upon the Lords Appellant who had killed his favourites in 1388. All their estates were escheated and handed over in large part to his relations of the half blood; John Holland, now made Duke of Exeter, and Thomas Holland, now made Duke of Surrey, by whom the autocracy of the next two years was guided.

John of Gaunt and his son, Henry Bolingbroke, who had helped in the *coup d'état*, were disposed of next. In September, 1398, Bolingbroke and Norfolk were dramatically banished. In Feb., 1399, John of Gaunt died of the shock, and Richard and his relations promptly seized the enormous estates of the Duchy also.

Then, on May 31st, King Richard was mad enough to sail for Ireland; five days later Henry of Lancaster landed at Ravenspur, marched on London and raised the country. Richard, warned at length by Sir William Bagot, reached Milford Haven on August 5th, only to be deserted by his army. With the Hollands he fled to Conway Castle, and there, history says on the 18th, he was induced to go to Flint and surrender to Lancaster. His surrender would appear to have been a few days earlier than this, for he is signing letters patent at Chester on August 16th and 17th. He was taken to the Tower, and on his way signed letters at Nantwich on the 21st, at Stafford on the 23rd, at Lichfield on the 23rd and 24th, at Coventry on the 26th, at Northampton, 29th, and St. Albans, 31st. On September 29th he abdicated the throne.

The period of absolute monarchy has left its mark upon this volume, which is consequently full of escheats, Royal presentations, and appointments. On September 28th, 1397, John Beaufort, Marquess of Dorset, and his wife Margaret Holland, the sister of the Duke of Surrey, are granted the escheated manors of Thomas, Earl of Warwick, namely, Drayton Basset, Walshale, Pyrye, Hamstede and Barre in co. Stafford, besides others elsewhere. And again, on the 3rd of September, in the same year, Sir Wm. Bagot, Nicholas Bradshaw, and the county escheators (Wm. Stockley for Staffs.) and others were commissioned to survey and take into the King's hands any of the estates of Archbishop Arundel, the Duke of Gloucester, the Earls of Arundel and Warwick, which had not already been seized.

There were few more powerful commoners than William Bagot during these years. Money grants, wardships and manors came to him without end. In 1398, he was made steward of the escheated estates of Richard, Earl of Arundel; on March 9th, 1399, being appointed to the King's Continuous Council, he was granted a salary of £100 a year. This continuous council of 12 peers and 6 Commoners had taken the place of Council and of Parliament. He was constable of Castle Lyons, keeper of Carnarvon Castle, steward of Cheylesmore, and Justice of the Peace for Warwick and Salop. Finally, when the King sailed for Ireland, he appointed Scroop, Earl of Wiltshire, Sir John Bussey, the ex-speaker, Sir Henry Grene, and Sir Wm. Bagot, guardians of the infant Queen at Wallingford Castle and of the realm. Bagot held Bagginton in Warwickshire *jure uxoris*, and General Wrottesley has shown that he was a younger brother of Sir John Bagot of Blithfield.

Sir John Bagot had gone to Ireland with Thomas Holland, Duke of Surrey, in August, 1398; so also had John Hampton, of Stourton, and William Banastre, who had been escheator of Staffs., in 1369-71, and was again appointed escheator as soon as Henry IV. came to the throne. With the King, next year, there followed after Surrey to Ireland, John, bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, Sir Richard Vernon of Harlaston, and Thos. Stones, who had been escheator of Staffs. in 1397. Others of the Royal faction who were spoiling their enemies were,—Thomas, lord le Despencer, who got an earldom as well as Walsall and Pattingham from the Warwick pickings; Wm. Stockley, King's servant and yeoman of the cellar, who was made escheator of Staffs. and Salop in 1396-7, and again escheator of Staffs in 1405; and Wm. Walshale, the King's squire. This Wm. Walshale had been seven times sheriff of Staffs., six times escheator, and had been knight of the shire in Parliament in 1365, 1380, 1384, 1391, 1393, 1394. He had yet to fill this post in 1402, 1403 and 1414. By a grant under date 28th June, 1397, Walshale, described as King's squire and marshal of the Hall, is appointed constable of Dinevor Castle. He also receives several grants; is made receiver of the alien Priory of Lapley; keeper of Teddesley Hay; and has the £10 fee farm rent from the abbot of Hales Owen for the manor of Rowley Regis. He, too, went to Ireland with the King in May, 1399. I believe he lived at Russhall, close by the town, whence he took his name. (*Staff. Hist. Coll.*, XVI, 49.)

On the other, the Lancastrian, side we have Robert de Huggefod, described as Esquire of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, receiving from that Earl a grant for life of the Basset manor of Pattingham; while Sir Walter Blount, Wm. and John Chetwynd, John Stafford, Hugh Hussey, Roger de Tuttebury, Thos. Beek and Roger Bradshaw were the men of the Duke of Lancaster. Sir Walter Blount was one of the Duke's executors. He had been appointed, on 8th January, 1373, Constable of the Duke's Castle of Tutbury. Here he had charge of the Duke's wife, Constance of Castile, for which he and his wife Sanchia de Ayala receive 100 marks a year. Altogether the Blounts had an annuity of £137 a year from the revenues of the Duchy.

Sir Wm. Chetwynd had died in 1395, and his heir Richard was in ward to the King, since their proper overlords, the Staffords, were also minors. But Wm. Chetwynd, described as the Duke's squire, had a grant of £10 a year out of the revenues of Newcastle-under-Lyme on April 1st, 1376, and seems to have followed the Duke to Portugal in 1386; while John Chetwynd, also his squire, was at Bordeaux with him in 1394 and received an annuity. In 1397, John Stafford, as squire, and Alice, his wife, had £10 a year from the Ducal revenues of Tutbury. Hugh Huse was with the Duke at Bordeaux in 1395, and as "his bachelor" had a £20 annuity. All the above were retained to serve with the King after the Duke's death, but how far he had their loyalty in 1399, is very problematical.

But by far the most determined opponents in Staffordshire of the Holland clique were the Earls of Stafford themselves. In 1385, the Duke of Exeter, while plain Sir John Holland, had murdered Ralph, the son and heir of Hugh, the second Earl of Stafford. The three brothers of the murdered lad, Thomas, William and Edmund, succeeded in turn to the Earldom, in 1386, 1392 and 1395, and the last, Edmund, who fell at Shrewsbury, was still apparently under age in March, 1399 (p. 500). Another point of antagonism between the Stafford Earl and the Holland Duke lay in the marriage of Earl Thomas, and, when he died, of his brother, Earl Edmund. They both married Anne, the daughter of Thomas Plantagenet, the same Duke of Gloucester, whom the Hollands had done to death. There is a Royal pardon in this volume, under date June 28th, 1398, to Earl Edmund for marrying his brother's widow without the King's permission. Another Edmund Stafford, Bishop of Exeter, son of Sir Ric. Stafford, of Pipe, and nephew of Ralph, the first Earl, was during these years Lord Chancellor, see *D.N.B.* And a licence of October 1st, 1397, shows us Sir Humphrey de Stafford (of Southwick) and Elizabeth, his wife, entailing the manor of Perton upon themselves and upon Sir Humphrey "le Fitz" and Elizabeth, his wife (heiress of Hoke) and heirs. (See p. 320.)

Henry Newbolt has lately written a novel called *The New June*, which deals with the feuds of the Staffords and the Hollands during this period in a fashion peculiarly accurate and of special interest to Staffordshire families. One of the episodes related is the murder of Sir John Ipstones by Roger Swynnerton. He makes this take place on Cannock Chase. In these Patent Rolls we get for the first time the true account of the murder.

June 2nd, 1397, Pardon at the supplication of the King's Knight Baldwin de Badyngton, to Roger de Swynerton of Chebbeseye, co. Stafford, for the death of John Ipstones "chivaler," elected one of the knights of the shire for the county of Stafford to the Parliament held at Westminster on the quinzaine of St. Hilary, in the seventeenth year (1394), who was killed under the following circumstances:—On Tuesday before St. Matthias in that year the said John was proceeding on the King's highway from his house in Walbrok within the City of London, to attend the said Parliament as a Member with a single yeoman carrying his sword, in accordance with the Proclamation made both at Westminster Hall and in the City, supposing himself safe as a Member of that Parliament and in the King's special protection by reason of that Proclamation, when the said Roger and Roger Caynton, Thos. Benoit, Hugh Benodiste, his servants, with others unknown being in the house and liberty of St. John without Smythefeld and perceiving the said John thus going unguarded (*non premunitum*) and singly, and returning as far as the lane opposite the chapel of St. Mary Runsvale, there assaulted John Joce and the said John Ipstones and killed the latter. Roger de Swynerton is also indicted of being there armed, with his men armed with swords and bucklers, and for being a principal in the commission of the felony, and also for with others pursuing the said Member of Parliament as far as the hermitage of St. Katherine, continuing the felony up to Westminster, etc.

The last six words are probably common form, to bring him within the proclamation. The full history of this Roger de Swynerton is given by the Rev. Charles Swynnerton in *The Ancestor*, Vol. VII, and besides the above we have only this to add to his account: Sir John Ipstones had been a member of the "merciless" Parliament which had attainted the King's friends in 1388. Sir John Salisbury, of Chebsey in right of his wife Joan Hastang, was one of those then beheaded. The widow had been married to Rustin Villeneuve (M.P. for Staffs. in 1397). Roger Swynerton had procured her divorce, and had married her himself before 1394, thus becoming lord of Chebsey. Now these Rolls give us further:—

January 26th, 1398, Shrewsbury. Commission to Wm. Walshale, sheriff of Stafford, on certain information which has reached the King that Roger de Swynerton has entered the manor of Chebsey, co. Stafford, which Joan late the wife of John de Salesbury, knight, claims and in which the King has a certain interest, to seize it into the King's hands and account for the profits to the King, from the time of seizure till further orders from the King and Council, compelling the said Roger and all his men to evacuate it, and certifying the King touching all his proceeding herein.

Sir Thomas Swynnerton of Swynnerton was the uncle by marriage of John Holland, Duke of Exeter, so the Swynnertons were undoubtedly on the Royal side, yet it certainly looks as though Roger did not get it all his own way after the murder; this with other evidence too long to quote makes it seem doubtful whether he even got his wife—or Chebsey. He survived many years and died as Roger Swynerton of Acton, near by and yet not

Chebsey itself. John Joce, Ipstones' yeoman, who escaped at the time of the murder, comes again into history as the member of Parliament for Newcastle-under-Lyme in 1402; the Joce family came from Hanchurch.

Curiously enough another murder of an M.P. by a Staffordshire man comes into this volume also. On October 4th, 1398, Sir Adam Peshale, Sir John Haukeston and others were commissioned to enquire into the murder of Nicholas Vernon at Shrewsbury; and by a curious inversion on the 25th of the same month Sir John Haukeston himself, the judge of the previous murder, received a pardon for the murder of Wm. de Laken, "when he came to London on the Thursday before St. Matthew (1398) to serve the King in Parliament" . . . "the said John and Robert de Kendale lay in wait for him on Friday and Saturday before Michaelmas, both on the River Thames and on the highroads from London to Westminster, until soon after vespers on that Saturday they met him in Flete Strete, coming to his lord the Earl of Derby, where with many others they assaulted him, and there the said John with a drawn sword killed him in the presence of the King and of the whole Parliament, (probably common form) by giving him from behind a wound in the right leg, right into the body, of which he died immediately." The very sufficient reason for this murder was a lawsuit. This Sir John Haukeston was of Wrinehill and Cheddleton: his daughter and heiress Helen married Wm. Egerton in 1392, and on the death of her estimable father carried these manors to the Egerton family.

What is to be made of the following entry:—"May 7th, 1398, grant for life to the King's clerk John Spenser of the £12 a year payable at the Exchequer as fee farm rent by Nicholas Audley, brother and heir of Thomas, son and heir of James de Audley, for the manor of Forde, co. Salop." Forde was indeed one of the Audley manors, and had been, on these same terms, since 1230. Sir James died in 1385, his son and successor Nicholas died in 1391, and the barony then passed to the Tochets. It would appear therefore that this entry has been a repeat from some similar entry of ninety years previous, referring to the Audleys of that time. Entries respecting the other baronial families of Sutton and Ferrers fall in with our previous knowledge, except that we should know more of the person spoken of by John of Gaunt in 1397 as "the late Sir Robert Ferrers." For this knight had been the first husband of Joan de Beaufort, the Duke's natural daughter born of Katherine Swinford in about 1379. The contemporary Sir Robert Ferrers of Chartley was born in 1360, but then he is said not to have died till 1411 (*Staff. Hist. Coll.*, XII, N.S., p. 184).

There is only one list of Justices of the Peace—for July, 1397—but it is eloquent of the power of the House of Lancaster in Staffs. It contained John, Duke of Lancaster; his son Henry, Duke of Hereford; John Beaufort, Marquess of Dorset; Edmund, Earl of Stafford; Thomas le Despenser, Earl of Gloucester; John Hill; Hugh Huls; Wm. Sharesull; Robert Fraunceys; Nicholas Bradshaw; Aymer Lichfield; John Knightle; Ric. Frodsham. Of these Huls and Hill were justices of the King's Bench; Bradshaw was on the bench for Northampton also and may have come originally from that county;

Aymer Lichefeld was the Adomar Taverner, the first brewer M.P. who sat for the county in 1387; the others were all men of the Duke's. In 1398 Shareshull, Lichfield, Knightley, Cornelius de Wirley and Robert Russell are appointed a commission to enquire into the withdrawal of their services by the bond tenants of John Hampton in his manor of Kinfare.

Besides his last fatal journey in the train of Henry of Lancaster, King Richard passed several times through Staffordshire in these years. He went through slowly on the way to that subservient Shrewsbury Parliament in January, 1398, to that "great national assembly which abdicated in four days the powers it had taken a century of statesmanship to build up." He was at Coventry on January 7th; at Lichfield or Haywood from the 17th to 23rd; at Lilleshull on the 25th; arriving at Shrewsbury for the opening of Parliament on the 29th. Coming back he stopped at Lichfield on February 8th, and at Clifton Camvill from February 8th to the 11th. He was at Lichfield again in June of the same year; and in 1399 he signed letters at Newcastle-under-Lyme on February 20th, and at Haywood on the 21st. This was apparently a flying visit to Newcastle from Coventry. From deeds recited we can in the same way see that John of Gaunt was at Tutbury on June 20th, 1362, and on January 20th, 1398.

On Richard's visits to Staffordshire he found a good deal of free hunting, now called poaching, going on there; and he appointed a commission on May 23rd, 1399, with Wm. de Ipstones on it, to enquire whether "common people" who do not own tenements of the yearly value of 40s. "keep harriers, greyhounds, ferretts, hedges, nets, 'herepipes,' strings and other engines." Among many other forest appointments, one may mention the grant in 1398 of the office of rider in Cannock Chase to the King's servant James Arblaster, doubtless of Longdon; the appointment in the same year of Robert Mauveysin, Nic. Bradshaw and Robert Burgulyn as a commission to enquire into the cutting down of timber in Teddesley Hay. But on June 24th, 1399, the King's serjeant-at-arms is directed to arrest and bring before the King and Council Sir Robert Mauveysyn.

There are pardons issued in this volume for murders at Acton Trussel, Wrottesley, and Rugeley, and also on March 15th, 1399, to John son of Wm. de Hampton of Rydeware Hampstall for all felonies, etc. Sir Thomas Aston, senior, obtains licence to alienate land in Walsall to the guild of St. John the Baptist there in 1396. Under the year 1397 reference is made to Richard Leveson and to Alice late the wife of Wm. Wasteneys, knight, while in 1398 and 1399 occur the appointments of Robert Walker and of Geoffrey de Sutton, both of the Principality of Chester, to be bailiffs for life of the Hundreds of Pirehill and Offlow respectively. Besides this there are no less than thirty-three ecclesiastical appointments referring to Staffordshire in these three years, so great was the Royal patronage. This review is already too long for me to set them out in full.

There are a few mistakes in the indexing of this volume which should be corrected:—p. 517, the hay of which John de Shrygley was made ranger should be Gauley not Ganley; the chase mentioned on p. 186 is Drayton

Basset, not Drayton in Hales under which it is indexed; the Heywood at which the King stopped was Great Haywood, the bishop's manor, not Heywood in Cheswardine as indexed; there is no Roger Leveson to be found on p. 183 as stated in the index. Considering the enormous amount of Staffordshire matter which one can check in this volume, these few mistakes really testify to the wonderful local knowledge of the compilers.

J. C. W.

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*Calendar of Patent Rolls.* Henry IV., 1408-13.

H.M. Stationery Office, 1909.

Though the last few years of the reign of Henry IV. were peaceable so far as the Kingdom as a whole was concerned, this was far from being the case with Staffordshire. What was practically civil war broke out there early in 1408. Many of the details are given in Vol. XVI of these Collections, p. 84. Hugh Erdeswick, Thos. Swynnerton and the brothers Myners raised men in Cheshire and Staffordshire to kill Sir John Blount, Constable of Newcastle, who was making some sort of effort to put down the robbery and murder in which they indulged. Sir John Blount was son and heir of that Sir Walter Blount who, clad in the King's surcoat, was slain by Douglas on the field of Shrewsbury. On one side were the officers of the Duchy of Lancaster and of the Crown; while Venables, Delves, Stanley and Egerton on the other side supported Erdeswick and the Myners.

On February 26th, 1409, Sir N. Montgomery, Sir R. Fraunceys, Sir T. Gresley and Sir W. Newport, all ex-sheriffs and all be it noted men from outside Staffordshire, are ordered by Letters Patent to arrest the rioters. Nothing followed, except a challenge from Erdeswick to Blount, to fight at Rocester man to man, six to six, or twenty to twenty. On February 16th, 1410, the House of Commons moved in the matter, and thereafter, one by one, the malcontents came in and gave themselves up. On February 10th, 1411, free pardons are issued to the following:—John Delves of Doddington and Apedale, Hugh Erdeswick of Sandon, Hugh Dampport, Roger Milnes of Cheadle, Thos. Swynnerton of Swynnerton, and Wm. Egerton of Wrinehill. The Myners and the lesser men still held out, and on August 8th, 1411, they were ordered to be arrested by a Commission consisting of—Sir W. Newport, Sir Adam Peshale, John Burley, Thos. Newport, John Delves, Thos. Giffard, Humphrey de Halghton, Ric. de Greneway, Ric. Chetwynd and Ralph de Marchington.

This produced little effect and on December 1st, 1411, an even stronger Commission took up the work. This consisted of Edmund Ferrers, Baron of Chartley, Sir W. Newport, Sir Roger Leche, Sir A. Peshale, Sir Thos. Tamhorn, Nic. Bradshaw, J. Delves, John and Thos. Swynnerton, Nic. de Rugeley, John Meverel; and this apparently achieved its object; for, on May 10th, 1412, the Myners, Ric. de Draycot and their lesser followers received pardons also. Edmund Ferrers, then head of the Commissioners, came in later on for the full vengeance of the pardoned rioters.



Such pardons were, of course, quite common. They are issued:— April 3rd, 1410, to Wm. Sideway of Keele, for the murder of Thos., son of Wm. Mulward at Keele; November 20th, 1411, to Thos. de Weston of Ashley, for the murder of Howell and Matthew Walsshemon at Mucklestone and for burning the house there of John de Whitmore; May 16th, 1412, to John Wygynton of Norton by Stokton, for armed rioting at Overzateshay, at Sedgley and at Wolverhampton, when he and others had broken up various mills—that of Rob. Walden, the Dean of Wolverhampton, that of Wm. Bushbury called Tunstall Mulne, that of Julian Leveson called Seysden Mulne, and that of Thos. Everdon called Sewall Mulne. The breaking of mills was a very common form of agrarian rioting; the unusual feature here is the pardon.

Besides commissions for the arrest of rioters there are many others in this volume. The Bishops of Hereford and Lichfield, with Thos. Earl of Arundel, and Adam de Peshale, raise forced loans for the King in Staffs., Salop and Hereford, June 14th, 1410; Hugh Hulse, Roger Horton, John Knyghtley, Wm. Walsale and Wm. Egerton enquire into the falsification of the King's money in Staffordshire, August 20th, 1411; in January, 1411, Sir Thos. Gresley, Nic. Rugeley of Saredon, Thos. Giffard and Edmund Lowe prepare the Staffordshire Subsidy Roll for the Subsidy voted in the last Parliament. Thos. Giffard, of Chillington and Caverswall, was made Sheriff in December, 1411.

Only one Commission of the Peace was drawn up for Staffordshire during these years. This was on June 12th, 1410, and contains the names of:—

Hugh Burnell.	W. Walshale.*
John Talbot, of Halomshire.*	Thos. Heuster.
Hugh Stafford.	John Blount.*
Hugh Huls.	Thos. Grenewey,*
Roger Leche.	John Knyghtle.
Roger Horton.*	

Those marked with an asterisk are new since the last Commission was issued in 1406.

Knyghtley sat for Salop also, Blount for Derby, and Talbot for Salop and Derby; while the Justices, Burnel, Huls and Horton, were on the bench for Salop, Worcester and Stafford. I think Sir Roger Leche and Heuster were men of robe also, or at least royal servants.

The Sir Hugh Stafford on the bench seems to be chiefly connected with county Essex, and I do not know his relation to Staffordshire. Two Sir Humphrey Staffords, of Southwick and of Hoke, the elder and the younger, come in under Somerset and Dorset in these years; they were lords of Amblecot and Perton in Staffs. Humphrey Stafford of Grafton was flourishing in Worcestershire. Earl Humphrey, the future Duke of Buckingham, was an infant whose marriage was in the gift of Queen Joan. Another Stafford was Edmund the Chancellor Bishop of Exeter (1395-1419); another, Richard, was in 1412 made Prior of Lenton; and yet another, Thomas, the son-in-law of the well-known Sir Wm. Bagot, occurs in January, 1410, suing his debtors.

The Knyghtleys of Knyghtley became extinct in the male line in 1393 when the heiress, Joan, took Knyghtley to her husband Roger Peshale, but John Knyghtley, justice of Chester, occurs frequently throughout these rolls. He was the younger son of John Knyghtley, of Gnosall and Burgh Hall, and uncle of that Ric. Knyghtley who, in 1416, purchased Fawsley for the seat of their family. On November 28th, 1408, John Knyghtley the elder and Wm. Everdon hand over to this John Knyghtley, the younger, the custody of the lands of Wm. Peyto, during the minority of the heir; and this may give us the date when John Knyghtley married Joan (Thornbury) the widow of Wm. Peyto, of Chesterton, co. Warwick. And in February, 1411, with Sir Thos. Aston and the Archdeacons of Chester, Coventry and Derby, he enquires into the scandals connected with the King's Chapel of Tettenhall.

It is strange that no Ferrers is to be found on the Staffordshire bench. An entry I cannot explain, under March 12th, 1410, distinctly says that Wm. Ferrers, of Groby, was Lord of Chartley at the time. If so, who was Edmund Ferrers, Lord of Chartley, who fought the Erdeswicks and has a recognised place in the pedigrees? John Tochet, the first Lord Audley of that family, died December 19th, 1408; and Henry Sherrard obtained in 1409 Royal confirmation of a grant by that John Tochet to him of five marks for life out of the Audley manor of Horton; and John Horningelow of Audley got a similar confirmation about the same time. The Tochet deed recited in this case was dated at Helegh Castle, March 4th, 1408. The custody of the heir of the Barony, James, then a minor, was sold for £2,000, to Wm. Lord Roos of Hamlake whose daughter he married.

The Swynnertons were, doubtless, too much engaged in rioting to be on the bench at this time, but there is notice of a licence granted on July 4th, 1409, whereby John Swynnerton of Hilton entails certain rents upon his wife Clemence, and his younger sons, Thomas, Edmund, Giles and Peter—Richard Lane being one of the feoffees of the settlement.

Though the Bassets, of Blore and Cheadle, and of Hintes, lasted for another two hundred years, yet the main lines of this great baronial family were now extinct. The Bassets of Weledon came to an end in 1408, those of Drayton in 1390, those of Sapecot in 1378, and it was doubtless these changes that led Robert Attorton, Prior of Canwell, to get a Royal confirmation of his charters. This confirmation, dated January 21st, 1411, includes Geva Ridel's foundation charter of Canwell Priory, passed before 1147, to which the following are given as witnesses:—William, abbot of Radmore, Richard, abbot of Leicester, Osbert, the chaplain, Ailsy, the priest of Draiton, Thomas de Ses, William de Ses, Walter de Cuilli, Adam de Tamworth, Rannulf de Bret, Ivo de Gorges, Robert Bagot, Richard Basset, Maud de Stafford. It includes also a "writing" of Ralph Basset of Drayton, son of "Ralf Basset the palmer," confirming his ancestors' grants, witnessed by Sir Ralph Basset, of Sapecot, Sir Robert de Grendone, Sir Wm. de Lymare, Walter de Berford, Augustine de Wissawe, and Henry, his son, Henry de Lilleburne, Richard de Thikebrom, Nicholas de Wissawe. Another "writing" of Ralph, son of Ralph, son of Ralph Basset, Lord of Drayton Basset,

confirming the others, dated May 7th, 1352, and witnessed by Baldwin de Fryvill, John de Clynton, John de Freeford, Fulk de Birmyncham, knights, John atte Lee, John le Arch, Hugh de Aston, John de Lile. And yet another "writing" of the same Ralph, the last Lord Basset of Drayton, dated January 6th, 1389, one of the witnesses to which is John Comberford.

Another ancient charter inspected and confirmed, dated July 22nd, 1234, at Sutton, in Kent, has Gilbert Basset and John fitzPhilip, the forester of Kinver among its witnesses. While difficult points as to the families of Penbrugge and Vernon of Harlaston are helped by the following Licence, which should be taken in conjunction with the suit given in Vol. XVI, p. 62.

Licence for Isabel, late the wife of Fulk de Penbrugge, chivaler, Walter Swan, clerk, and Wm. Mosse, clerk, to grant the advowson of the college (of St. Bartholomew of Tonge) to Richard de Penbrugge, son of Richard Vernoun of Harleston, chivaler, kinsman and heir of the said Fulk, and Benedicta his wife and the heirs of their bodies, with successive remainders to the heirs of his (Fulk's) body, Wm. Ludlowe and Isabel his wife, sister of Richard the son, . . . , Joan her sister, and the right heirs of the said Fulk. November 25th, 1410.

Isabel was Sir Fulk Penbrugge's second wife. The Sir Richard Vernon alias Pembrugge of Harlaston, Speaker of the House of Commons, 1426 (see *D.N.B.*) was nephew and heir to Fulk Penbrugge, being son of Juliana the sister of Fulk, by Sir Ric. Vernon of Harlaston.

John Wethales had been on the county bench from 1399 onwards. We learn from a pardon here given, dated July 4th, 1411, that he was of Penkridge, and that he had died leaving a daughter Anne married to John Mores. Sir Robert Fraunceys was one of the trustees of the settlement, and John Rushbery, rector of the church of Colton another. One may also notice the outlawry of John Sympson of Penkull in 1412, and a reference to Richard Leveson of Willenhall collecting his debts in the same year.

Of ecclesiastical information there is the following :—

Walter Bullok, ratified as parson of the church of Elford, February 16th, 1408. Roger Westwood ratified as prebend of Handsacre (called Sandiacre in the text and index), December 19th, 1408. In 1410, John Gryffyth is parson of Rushall. In the same year, Thomas Mancien is Prior of the alien Priory of Tutbury, and has a licence to import six alien monks from St. Pierre sur Dive in Normandy. Wm. Neuport is ratified as prebend of Handsacre and parson of Wyggynton, January 11th, 1411. Wm. Pilton, a pluralist, is ratified as a canon of Penkridge and prebendary of Shareshall, March 12th, 1411. On July 10th, 1412, Robert Wolveden, exchanges with Thomas Hanley a canonry of St. George's, Windsor, for the deanery of the free chapel of Tettenhall. And a last entry gives us not only the appointment of Richard Weston as Prior of Dudley, appointed by John, Prior of Wenlok, March 8th, 1412, but also the statement that the temporalities were in the King's hands *by reason of the minority of Thomas, son and heir of Richard, late Baron of Dudley*. Now all the Suttons of Dudley were duly called John, just as

all the Bassets were Ralph and all the Staffords Humphrey. A Richard, "Baron" of Dudley, has never till now been heard of in any of the Peerages. John de Sutton V. was born in 1380 and died in 1406, and his heir was his son John, aged five years. This (6th) Sir John Sutton, K.G., called "of Dudley," was a famous diplomatist and soldier in the Lancastrian reigns and was summoned to Parliament in 1440. For nearly 100 years the Suttons had received no writ of summons. John Sutton II of Dudley had been summoned in 1342, and had died in 1359. When he died, the castle of Dudley did not pass to his son John III, but remained in the hands of his widow Isabella, who remarried one Sir Richard de Dudley, and was nurse to Queen Philippa of Hainault. This widow, Isabella, of Dudley Castle, did not die till 1397, but it is inconceivable that it can have been her son who was a minor in 1412. Evidently, however, Mr. Grazebrook is right in thinking that it was the tenure of the castle rather than the family descent which regulated the title and the summoning of the barons of Dudley. (*Staff. Hist. Coll.*, IX, part 2, 55.)

J. C. W.

*Calendar of Papal Registers.*

Papal Letters, VIII. (1427-1447.)

H.M. Stationery Office, 1909.

Though there are not many Letters relating to Staffordshire, this volume is of great general historical interest. It brings before us a picture of the kind of dominion exercised by the Pope over England, Scotland and Ireland early in the fifteenth century, and the resistance of both Church and State to that dominion in certain cases.

We find here intrusions by the Pope of foreigners into Bishoprics, Deaneries and Benefices, Dispensations for such irregularities as non-residence, ordination of those under age, and for holding benefices in plurality. The last were peculiarly glaring abuses. It was a time when clerics abounded, yet some because they were of noble birth or knightly race were allowed to hold two, three or four or more livings and to exchange them as often as they chose. Roger Burgh, Canon of Gnosall, was also Rector of Long Marston, Yorks, and Prebendary of the Church of S. Gervais, Avranches, and Chaplain of S. Vincent, Rouen.—William Bothe, Rector of Leigh, is not to hold more than two parish churches besides his Archdeaconry of Middlesex. The number of dispensations granted on account of illegitimacy to sons of clergy, both secular and regular, of Bishops, and of nuns is truly appalling, and shows something of the state of the Church under a celibate ministry. Other dispensations were for marriage within forbidden degrees, and indulgence to choose a Confessor or have a portable Altar and have Mass said even before daylight. Archbishop Chicheley's opposition to the Pope's provisions, backed by the Bishop, the Universities and the temporal lords (1427) is interesting, as also is Henry VI.'s successful resistance to the intrusion of Thomas Brown to the see of Worcester (1435).

S. W. H.

*Calendar of Patent Rolls.* Henry VI., 1446-1452.

H.M. Stationery Office, 1909.

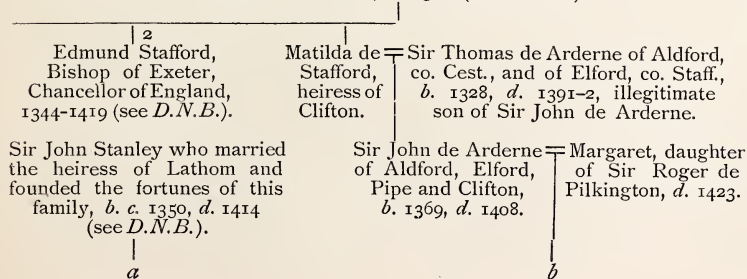
Few periods are less flattering to our national pride, or more kaleidoscopic, than these six years. At home we begin with the murder of that harmless, if somewhat testy, old gentleman "good" Duke Humphrey of Gloucester, and we end in civil war. Abroad we lose Maine, Normandy, and Guienne, —and lose it all gloriously.

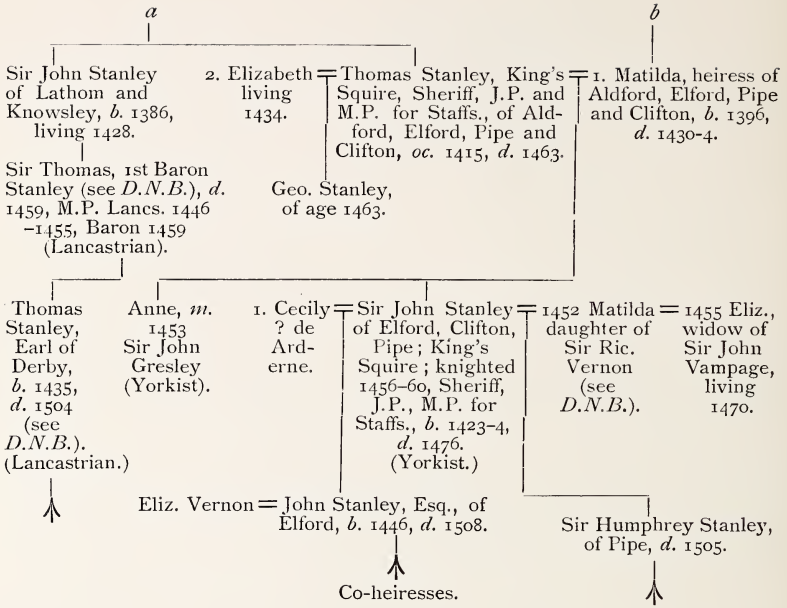
It was foolish of the Beauforts and Suffolk to destroy Duke Humphrey, for it gave them as an opponent and heir to the throne Duke Richard of York, a man of different calibre with the Nevilles behind him.

It was in 1449 that the truth about the loss of France came to be known in England, and in January of the following year Parliament met. They would not listen to John Stafford, the Lord Chancellor—positively shouted him down and forced him to resign. Beaufort took good care not to return from France; while Wm. de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, was put in keeping of the King's squires—John Stanley, Wm. Minours and Thos. Staunton. We know this from these Rolls, for they were discharged from this service in March, when Suffolk was banished. He did not escape far, however; he was caught at sea, and "the traitor who sold away Maine" was beheaded over the gunwale.

Then the Duke of York came over from Ireland, to the vice-royalty of which he had been relegated during the last three years. During August and September he marched slowly on London, putting Sir John Sutton, Lord Dudley, into prison on the way. A new Parliament met in October, 1450. The Commons were almost wholly Yorkist: John Stanley of Pipe and Elford and his future brother-in-law, John Gresley of Drakelow, replaced such faithful servants of the King as John Hampton of Stourton, Wm. Comberford of Comberford, and Richard Whitgreve of Burton, who had represented the county of Stafford in recent Parliaments. (Next month Stanley got himself made Sheriff of Staffs. also, naturally in the Yorkist interest.) I must here correct a mistake in the reviews of the previous volume as to these Stanleys of Elford and their connection with Earls of Derby. The correct pedigree is as follows:—

Sir Ric. de Stafford of Pipe, *b. c.* 1305, younger  
brother of Ralf, 1st Earl of Stafford, married  
heiress of Clifton, *d.* 1380 (see *D.N.B.*).





In the Lords parties were more equally divided. With the Queen were the Beauforts, the Hollands, Talbot Earl of Shrewsbury, and Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, besides such minor lords as Audley and Dudley. So that when Parliament was dissolved in June, 1451, the Queen's side gained ground, and though York again marched on London in the spring of the next year he failed to effect any change, and this volume ends with the Queen and the Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerset, firmly in the saddle.

Staffordshire must have been strongly Lancastrian. The names on the Commissions of the Peace bear this out. Two Commissions are here recorded, one for 1446 and another for 1449; no fresh names were added in the time of Yorkist ascendancy as in other counties. Besides the Justices Yelverton and Byngham, the Bench consisted of Buckingham, Suffolk, Audley, Dudley, Ferrers of Chartley, and the Bishop, with Sir Roger Aston (in 1446 only), John Hampton, John Harpur of Rushall, Thos. Arblaster of Longden, Rob. Whitgreve, Wm. Comberford, and Sampson Meverel, the last in 1449 only.

The Duke of Buckingham was not an extreme partisan, but, on the whole, he stood by the king. He paid for it afterwards: lost his son at St. Albans, and fell himself in 1460 beside the King's tent at Northampton. Here we find him getting part of the escheated estates of "good" Duke Humphrey; then, appropriately he founded several chantries. Till the

autumn of 1449 he remained in France, as Captain of Calais ; in August of 1450 he was made Constable of Dover and Warden of the Cinque Ports. The Staffords played a large part in the history of the time, and we give the connecting pedigree below. Sir Humphrey Stafford of Grafton and his brother William were defeated and slain by Jack Cade, the Captain of Kent, at Sevenoaks on June 18th, 1450.

Most valuable information as to this rebellion of Cade's is given in this volume. We have the names and places of residence of some 3,500 persons from Kent, Surrey, and Sussex who received free pardons—the sort of pardon which was usually given to these sort of people, and could be shown to be out of order as soon as the crowd had dispersed and the hanging could begin. There were a sprinkling of gentry among the number, although they “affirmed that they would hold all things in common.”

After Buckingham, next in importance in Staffordshire, came Sutton of Dudley. He is to be found in the *Dict. of Nat. Biog.*, and all that we learn new of him here is that on June 2nd, 1447, he had the advowson of the Free Chapel and Deanery of Wolverhampton given him. Of Sir James Touchett, Lord Audley, we learn that he was Chamberlain of South Wales, and that on October 26th, 1447, he had an exemption from further service in Parliament. And on March 2nd, 1449, there is the following :—

Pardon to John (Stafford), archbishop of Canterbury, Ralph Eggerton, John Nedham, and Ph. More, parson of the church of Makworth, of all purchases and alienations by them of the castle and lordship of Heley, and of the manor and lordship of Audley, and all other lordships, etc. . . . in the counties of Staffs., Salop, Chester, Derby, and Somerset, late of James, lord of Audley, though they be held in chief.

Those pardoned were evidently feoffees of a settlement. John Nedham, the Justice, represented Newcastle in the Parliaments of 1441, 1447, and 1449-50. He and Wm. Mitton of Weston-under-Lizeard (M.P. Staffs. in 1447) both occur as J.P.'s in County Salop, and on many Commissions. Ralph Egerton had also been in Parliament, and was of Wrinehill and Cheddleton.

Sir Wm. Ferrers, lord of Chartley, died in the summer of 1450 (? 1449 *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, XII, New Series, 184). He left a daughter Anne, married on or before November 26th, 1446, to Walter Devereux, the ancestor of the House of Essex. Ferrers' entailed estates, however, passed to his brother, Sir Edmund Ferrers, aged twenty-six and more, who, because of his poverty, is allowed to have seisin of the manor of Tewksbury without suing out a writ of *diem clausit extremum*. This writ of March 1st, 1451, gives a descent from Hawise de Bures in 14 Ed. II. as follows :—Hawise, Robert, son, William, son, Sir Edmund, son, Sir William and Sir Edmund, sons,—but the reading of the descent is obscure and obviously wrong (see *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, XII, New Series, 184). How Sir William, who died in 1450, comes to be renominated on the Warwickshire bench in 1452 I do not know. Thomas Ferrers, the sheriff of

Staffs. for the two years ending November, 1449, is probably the Thos. Ferrers the elder of Tamworth, who on May 28th, 1449, obtains an exemption from all juries, shrievalties, etc.

More important than Ferrers, Audley, or even Dudley, was John Hampton of Stourton, squire of the body to the King. I have dealt with him in previous reviews. He, together with his (presumably second) wife Anne, "daughter of John Henham, Esq.," had a grant of the office of Constable of Colchester Castle, February 24th, 1447; he was made Steward of the forests of Morf and Shirlet, co. Salop, September 30th, 1447; "in lieu of a grant thereof for life to John Chetwynd, Esq., by letters patent dated June 28th, 1438, surrendered"; till October 24th, 1447, he seems to have been sheriff of Merioneth; in February, 1449, he is described as "late Master of the Queen's Horse"; in November, 1449, he is Captain of Hammes Castle, in Picardy; till July 18th, 1450, he was Master of the Ordnance. He seems, however, to have suffered under the Yorkist Parliament of 1450-1, for, on March 22nd, 1452, he has regranted to him revenues out of Kinver and Stourton which had been annulled in that Parliament. The original grant to him had been made in 1427. The mysterious connection with Southampton again appears in some entries.

A curious point of international law comes up on one of his commissions. He, with Sir Ric. Vernon and others, sits to consider the proposed confiscation of the goods of citizens of Milan to compensate an English trader who is unable to get justice and his debts paid from the Milanese.

John Harpur is next on the county bench. He obtained in 1446 an exemption for life from all juries, shrievalties, etc., and he and Whitgreve and Comberford appear on many occasions as the men of the Duke of Buckingham. Rob. Whitgreve, who was Teller of the Exchequer for life, attended his 18th and last Parliament in October, 1449; this time for the county. His son Humphrey sat in the same House in this and the next Parliament for Stafford Borough. They both had exemption from juries, etc., on December 2nd, 1448; and Humphrey had had a grant of the herbage and pannage of Cannock from 1446. Of Thos. Arblaster we learn that "Thos. Arblaster the elder and Alice his wife" had leave on December 12th, 1449, to alienate land to the Abbey of Merevale.

John Miners must have been another Lancastrian, for he was in 1450 Bailiff of Tutbury Castle for the Duchy. Thomas Swynnerton of Hilton is described in a Royal Confirmation of the Bailiwick of Cannock, April 28th, 1447, as "King's squire, kinsman and heir of Philip de Montgomery." In February of the following year this Thos. Swynnerton settles on himself and his wife Elizabeth land in Fradsley, and the fee farm rents for herbage, etc., from Humphrey Whitgreve, and the said Bailiwick of Cannock, "which Hugh de Loges had held." The feoffees of the settlement are the Duke of Buckingham, John Stanley of Elford, Thos. Everdon, John Cawardyn, John Harper, Nic. Warynges, Thos. Rugeley, Thos. Heth, Roger Stokkeley, and the heirs of John Cawardyn.

Some other county names appear on various commissions. On February



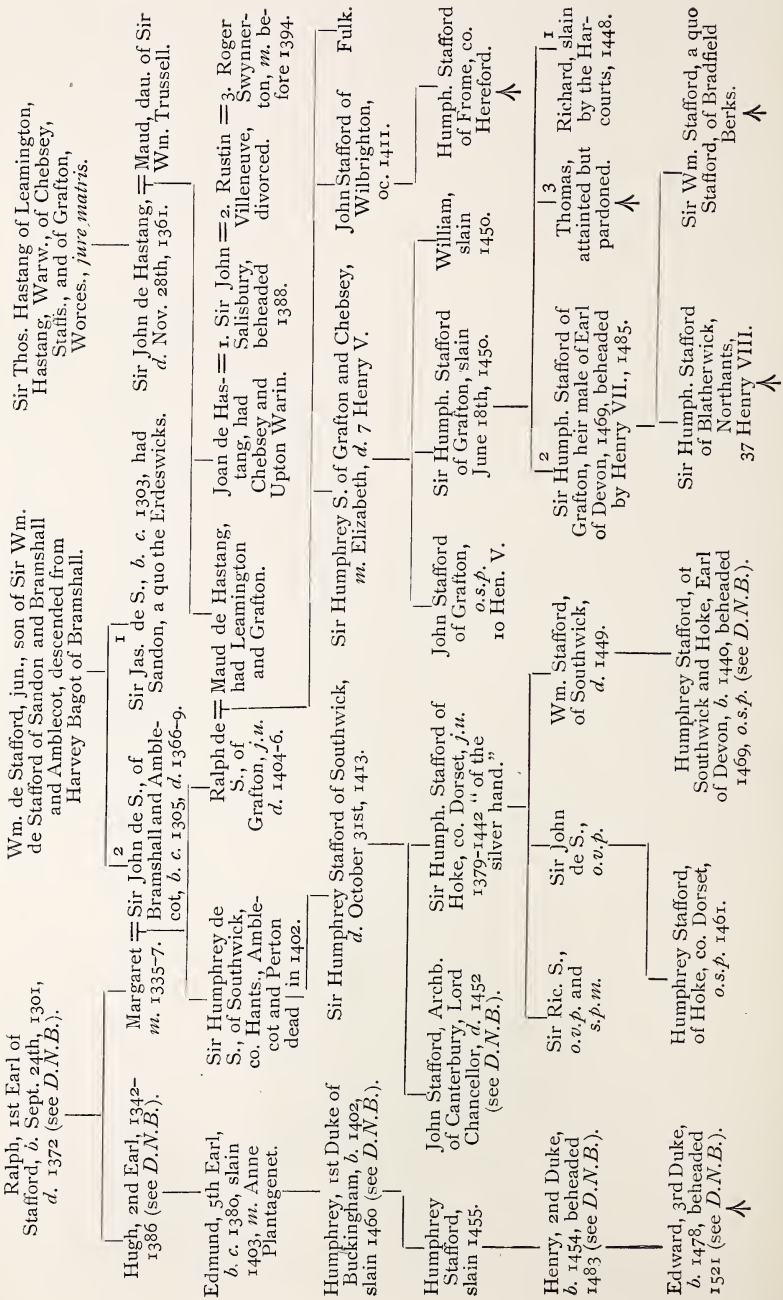
8th, 1448, Hampton, Harpur, Arblaster, Whitgreve, Cumberford, and John Archer of Statfold are appointed to enquire into escheats, etc., in Staffordshire. On September 25th, 1449, Hampton, Harper, Arblaster, Whitgreve, the Bishop, and Thos. Stanley, are to raise a loan in Staffs for the war. On February 18th, 1450, Sir Thos. Blount, Sir John Griffith, Wm. Cumberford, Thos. Everdon, and others are Justices to deliver the Gaol of Worcester Castle of Edmund Sutton, Esq., John Blount, Esq., Wm. Walsale, Thos. Walsale, and others. And on June 1st, 1450, Sir John Griffith, Rob. Aston, Esq., Ric. Bagot, Esq., and Thos. Wolseley, enquire as to lands held in chief by Joan, widow of John Wynnesbury, deceased.

Two armed feuds are of interest. Sir Ric. Vernon, Ric. Bagot, Esq., John Rothe, Esq., Wm. Vernon, Esq., John Rolston, Rob. Fraunceys, and the J.P.'s for Derby and Staffs. are commissioned on March 11th, 1449, to arrest John Gresley, Esq., and his brothers Thomas and Nicholas and many others named, for laying in wait for the Abbot of Burton and his men. The other feud concerns the Staffords and the Harcourts (see *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, III, New Series, 199). According to one side the servants of Sir Robert Harcourt of Staunton Harcourt, co. Oxon, by procurement of Joan Harcourt of Bosworth, co. Leicester, wedowe, killed Ric. Stafford and Wm. Sharpe his servant, and beat Humphrey Stafford at Coventry. According to the other account Humphrey Stafford, son of Sir Humphrey Stafford of Grafton, and an enormous following, all named, came to Staunton Harcourt and wounded the King's lieges and carried off their goods. Or this may have been a second and consequent affray. (April-May, 1450.) The feud ended in 1471, when Sir Robert Harcourt was finally killed off by Wm. Stafford, the bastard of Grafton.

There was Humphrey Stafford the Duke (1402-1460), Sir Humphrey of Hoke, co. Dorset (1379-1442), Sir Humphrey of Grafton, co. Worcester (slain 1450), Sir Humphrey, his son (attainted 1485), not to mention Humphrey Stafford of Southwick and Hoke, Earl of Devon (b. 1440, beheaded 1469). These Rolls introduce us to yet another Humphrey Stafford, of Frome, co. Hereford. His wife Margaret, aged 21 and over, was daughter and heir to Wm. Lichfield, and the inquisition on his death in 1447 shows her inheriting land in Freford, Weeford, Lichfield, Curborowe, Whittington, Elmhurst, etc. The connection of these Staffords is shown in the Chart pedigree which follows.

One charter, quoted from May 14th, 1349, may be given. Hy., son of John atte Forde of Bysshebury, grants to Hy., son of Ralph de Bysshebury, and Maud his wife, lands and services in Wolverhampton, which he had of the gift of Hy., son of Ralph, to the use of them and their heirs with remainder to the right heirs of Henry, son of Ralph. Witness: Sir Henry de Bysshebury, Kt., Sir Ric. Hillary, John de Hampton, Roger de Trescote, Ric. Levesone, and others.

Among matters ecclesiastical, we have the pardon of Dan John Bredon, Prior of St. Giles, Canwell, for a doubtful murder, 1447. The foundation of a chantry of two chaplains to pray at All Saints, Walsall, by Thos. Mollesley and Henry Flaxale, 1448. And the pardon of Wm. Aley of Stubbilane, co.



Stafford, yeoman, for felony and murder committed at Burton by the procurement of Ralph Henley, Abbot of Burton, and his fellow monks, Thos. Norton and Wm. Stapynhill, 1452. (*Staff. Coll.*, III, N.S., 185, 211.)

J. C. W.

*Calendar of State Papers.* Foreign Series of the reign of Elizabeth, May–December, 1582, preserved in the Public Record Office. Edited by Arthur John Butler, M.A. H.M. Stationery Office, 1909.

Foreign Affairs, we have been told on good authority, are the concern of "sovereigns and statesmen," and are not to be interfered with by the vulgar crowd. But all things come to him who knows how to wait; and now by the aid of this volume, and others like it, the man in the street, after an interval of three centuries, may study at his ease the inner workings and secret springs of our foreign diplomacy in the days of Good Queen Bess. Cecil the sagacious, Walsingham the wary, and even the elusive Vestal, throned in our historic island, here display with engaging frankness the strenuous watchfulness, the timid alertness, and the tortuous audacity, by which they baffled the intrigues of our exasperated neighbours, and secured for England her position as a great and independent European Power.

The scene, as unfolded in this volume, opens with the siege of Oudenarde by the Prince of Parma, and there follows a period of delay on the part of the Duke of Anjou, and of inefficient support accorded to him and the Netherlands by England and France, which culminated in the capture of the town by the Spanish. This campaign, and incidents centred round it, occupy the main part of our volume, and though England's policy, as here laid bare to the view, redounds nothing to our glory and little enough to our honour, we get an impression of the fearful odds against us, and of the dull but dogged common-sense with which our statesmen, now aided, now hampered, by our extraordinary queen, brought us through our difficulties.

For the historian and the novelist alike ample fare is here provided, while the casual reader who once takes the volume in his hands will with difficulty tear himself from its perusal.

Pages 330 to 333 are largely taken up with the complaints made in 1582 by the (English) merchants of Rouen, who, in quite modern vein, complain bitterly of "the miserable and cruel extortions wherewith the English nation is at this day oppressed." They state that heavy impositions are raised "upon no commodity but such as Englishmen bring into the realm or transport out again." Broad cloth, Kerseys and Manchesters are heavily charged, both upon the piece and on "the northern dozen." Welsh cotton, canvas, and buckram pay increased imports, and each bag of woad pays thirty shillings. Of late there have been new impositions on papers, and playing cards are charged a duty of 40s. the hundred-weight. Now that there is a league between England and France, they suggest that instead of these exactions, there should be a general "defence" made for any merchant

to traffic into France for the term of a year, "which as we suppose would be the only salve to cure these sores."

Interspersed among the references to public affairs are many interesting matters. Thus Pietro Bizarri winds up a letter to Walsingham, by telling him that "the Persian work, by the Grace of God, has begun to be printed, to my great content, since I have often despaired of finishing it."

"The farce of the Anjou marriage" proposed for Elizabeth was not yet played completely out, and on page 530 are gravely set forth "what inconveniences may probably ensue if her Majesty shall not marry." The paper containing them is in Lord Burghley's handwriting, and he adds a sketch of the answer that may be made to the French, suggesting that they shall be informed that "she was never otherwise inclined to marriage but for the contenting of her people and for the maintenance of her Crown and realm in Peace," and doubting how the match with M. d'Anjou might content her people, "She hereupon suspended her resolutions, meaning from time to time to prove how these accidents and oppositions might be removed." All which sounds immensely diplomatic, but not very comforting to her suitor.

The depositions (p. 457) concerning an English pirate named Thomas Kem, the episodes concerning the King and Queen of Navarre, and many other matters of lighter import, seem to cry aloud for the novelist to work them up; while even the writer of penny fiction will be glad to find copy in the sad end of a certain Alonzo, who, though a Spaniard, served in the States Army, and being captured by the Spanish, was hanged up by the feet and shot.

Nor must we forget that the year (1582) covered by this volume witnessed the reform of the Julian Calendar, the new style appearing first in a letter by Pietro Bizarri already mentioned, who complains that Christmas Day is being celebrated on the 15th of December.

Staffordshire and Staffordshire men do not figure at all in these interesting pages, but we are none the less ready to recognize gratefully the wealth of the book's contents and the immense learning, labour and patience which have gone to its making.

Let us close these remarks upon a note of poetry, by quoting the following lines which were fastened on the door of the ambitious Duc d'Epéron, and were duly reported (p. 3) by Cobham to Walsingham :—

*"Garde-toi glorieux ;  
Car tu seras un jour malheureux  
Car pour toujours trop entreprendre,  
Nous te ferons quelque jour pendre."*

W. F. C.

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*Calendar of State Papers. Domestic, 1676/7.*

H.M. Stationery Office, 1909.

Parliament was prorogued for fifteen months, till February 15th, 1676/7, during all save one fortnight of the period covered by this volume.

Politically, the struggle between Danby and Shaftesbury had become a fight between Tories and Whigs, and, though the volume ends with the committal of Shaftesbury to the Tower, in the country the Whig agitation against the King and the Church of Rome was growing ever keener. Wild rumours were going round of "hellish designs" to burn Bristol, York, and other towns. The Duke of York had openly declared himself a Catholic, and had married again—a Catholic wife—while the French King, with his military incursions and his religious intolerance, was a much more scaring menace than even the German Emperor to-day, and, through his Mme. "Carwell" and his pensions, the people recognised that the English King was a puppet in his mighty hands. For all through this year the power of France in Europe grew, the Low Countries were being over-run, de Reuyter was killed, and the Dutch defeated on sea and land.

While Dissenters were getting dubbed Whigs and were being committed to gaol in Yarmouth and the Eastern counties for attending conventicles, Down and Antrim, except Mr. Bagnall's estate at Newry, were being cleared of those "rogues" the Tories—they were "ferreted out." At the same time the French and Catholic menace was such that the value of the monastery lands had fallen by two years' purchase. The possession of these lands was always a salutary reminder to their owners to maintain the Protestant succession, and thus the monasteries influenced politics 150 years after their suppression.

In Staffordshire the old Roundhead spirit was again stirring.

Sir Thomas Whitgreave writes to Sir Charles Wolseley: "If the bearer had not given me this opportunity, I had sent a messenger on purpose as well to enquire after your health as to give you an account of a relation (story) I met with at Stafford, in which there was this passage: that you not long since, writing to Lord Anglesey, desired him to stick close to the good old Cause, and assured him the greatest part of the gentry of Staffordshire were ready to stand to him. This letter, says Lord Ardglass, was delivered to me instead of to Lord Anglesey, and I opened it, and finding this in it delivered it to the King. This I had from Doctor Thornburgh, who assured me he had it a few days since from Lord Ardglass's own mouth. I told my cousin Chetwynd of it. . . . Though it be a ridiculous incredible story, I thought myself obliged to give you an account of it. January 12th, 1677."

Sir Charles, who had been a member of Barebones Parliament and one of Cromwell's House of Lords, says this is "one of the loudest and most impudent lies I ever yet heard of," that Dr. Thornburgh is "a great Papist," and demands that Lord Anglesey shall see the King about it. Sir Thos. Whitgreave had been his colleague in the representation of Staffordshire all through the Commonwealth Parliaments, and Lord Anglesey had been President of the Council of State in February, 1660. The "good old Cause," or may it be just this story, got Sir Charles clapped into prison eight years later, during Monmouth's rebellion.

Among the most important Roman Catholics in Staffordshire was the young Earl of Shrewsbury. In 1668 his father had been killed in the duel with

George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham ; now, at the age of 15, he and his brother John have licence to pass to parts beyond the seas, and to remain there seven years with their servants, carriages, and baggage, and £50 in money, and 12 horses. September 1st, 1676. He did not stop out his time abroad, for three years later he was made an important convert to Protestantism by Tillotson, then Dean of Canterbury. Sir Gilbert Talbot, Master of the Jewel House, and Sir John Talbot also come into the despatches of this time.

On August 12th, 1676, we hear that Col. Lane's daughters have been granted the annual pension of £480 by way of interest, till £6,000 be paid them out of the revenue of Ireland. But the following entry I am quite unable to explain :—

“September 12th, 1676, Ed. Glynne to Wm. Bridgeman. Mr. Secretary told Capt. Aston that Mr. Jolley's warrant should pass in any friend's name, and desired that a name might be sent, and it should be despatched. Mr. Jolley desires that my name may be made use of for him, and that you would endeavour to get it done before the King goes to Windsor.” Wm. Bridgeman was Secretary to Sir J. Williamson, the Secretary of State.

There are not many references to Staffordshire people in this volume, so that the following may also be given in full :—

“March ?, 1676, Dame Priscilla, relict of Sir Walter Littleton, late Chancellor of Lichfield, to the King. Petition, stating that her husband spent above £500 in rebuilding a residentiary's house in the close of Lichfield on an agreement with Bishop Hacket . . . that he should have the next nomination of the residentiary after Mr. Harrison, who being now aged and sick she put in her claim to nominate Ed. Fulham, a worthy prebendary, but Dr. Wood the present Bishop refuses to make good the agreement of his predecessor. . . .” The King writes immediately recommending that the agreement should be kept, but on March 27th another letter from the King to the Bishop recommends Robert Harsnet for the prospective vacancy “in consideration of the services of his father, Roger Harsnet, serjeant-at-arms, in the late times, especially in adventuring his life in the garrison of Lichfield.” At another time the King is recommending one John Conant for a vacant prebend “on account of his constant and painful preaching.”

As an example of the horrible side of the times one has only to mention that for murder a girl was burnt alive beyond the Catwater at Plymouth in the presence of 6,000 people, and when the American colonists, in their endless Indian wars, caught “King Philip” and his Indian Queen, they contented themselves with setting his head on the gate of Plymouth, and his quarters on the gates of Boston, but they burnt the Queen at the stake.

J. C. W.

*A History of the Parish of Tatenhill.* By Sir Reginald Hardy, Bart. Two vols., octavo. Harrison and Sons, 1907.

The William Salt Society may reasonably complain that these volumes should have been, and yet were not, issued among their publications; even though it had been at their expense. They represent a really fine piece of work, and should be used as a model by those who contemplate similar studies. The records of the Duchy of Lancaster, of which excellent use is made, give this History a value which even Mr. Parker's *Colton*, or Mr. Bridgeman's *Weston-under-Lizeard*, could not hope to attain; while the variety of manors dealt with prevents the narrative degenerating into a Family instead of a general History.

The Parish History as a rule begins with a fancy pedigree, studded with such useful finger-posts as "temp. Ed. II.," gives a list of the incumbents (who probably never resided), extracts the humorous things from the Parish Register, and ends with fulsome references to the "elegant mansions" of possible purchasers. There is nothing of all that in the severely restrained history before us. No "fine" writing; no egotism or family puff; one might almost say no author, save for the excellent arrangement of the compilation of records which tell the story.

Sir Reginald knows that it is contemporary records which are wanted for real history, and he has used them all, from Plea Rolls, Court Rolls, and Minister's Accounts, to the poetry of the seventeenth and the letters of Horace Walpole in the eighteenth century. He records in this manner the history of the various churches from foundation to restoration. He takes the manors in turn, Wichnor, Blakenhall, Barton, Tatenhill, Dunstall, and traces their owners, and how and when they changed hands down to the present day. Nor are these owners left mere names hanging on a dead family tree; they are fitted in with the rest of the county and with England. The habit of considering a Stafford or an Audley or a Somervill as belonging solely to Staffordshire is superficial, and generally the result of idle ignorance; it leads to a misconception of the true object of a County History, which is that it should fit in with and be a part of English History.

The account of the family of Somervill of Wichnor and Alrewas, from the Conquest to 1355, and of their successors, the Griffiths, is as concise and nearly as complete as anything that General Wrottesley did for the Bagots or the Okeovers. An obvious mistake should be noted for correction on p. 54, however; Sir Philip de Somervill (M.P. for Staffs. 1322, 1324, 1327, 1332, 1336) married Margaret de Pype, not in 13 Ed. III. but in or before 1308 (*Staff. Hist. Coll.*, IX, 8). Very useful pedigrees are also given of Offley, Levett, Rugeley, Biddulph, Bass, and others of less public note. It is characteristic of the author that he does not record any pedigree of his own except during the period they have been associated with the subject of his history.

One would like to ask all who print Chart pedigrees in works of this serious character, to make two improvements in future in accordance with the dictates of modern scientific accuracy. Firstly, every date that can be found, for birth, death, marriage or office, should be inserted, with footnote reference if possible; and without economising the guarding words "in or before." Secondly, that, where the pedigree is the result of the author's own researches, he should sign or initial it, so that those who follow may know that it is the work of someone who can be trusted (or mistrusted), and not the compilation of Shaw, Chetwynd, Erdeswick, Dugdale, or even of G. E. C. The fashion of accepting one of those old-time pedigrees, and tinkering it with a date here and a remarriage there, and then printing it off in company with matter of a thoroughly trustworthy character is one to be discouraged. Nothing short of the initials R. H. at the foot of p. 90 would ever make the writer believe in the Mynors Pedigree there displayed.

The early Court and Woodmoot Rolls which fill most of the second volume extend from 1336 to 1543. They are well done, in extended Latin, by Mr. W. K. Boyd. Woodmoot Rolls are new and supply much that is fresh as to the management of the Royal forests, such as Needwood. The Court Rolls show a good many traces of villeinage surviving well into the fifteenth century, but we have as yet too few Court Rolls of the fourteenth century in print for any comparative study of the disappearance in our county of the degrading system of allodial serfdom, and of the progressive leasing of the lord's demesnes to tenant farmers employing free labour.

One cannot take leave of this History without saying that it is thoroughly readable in spite of the total absence of imaginative broidery. Evidently Sir Reginald loves his county and his subject, and he has the gift of passing on his feeling to others, though they may never have seen or heard,

Barton-under-Needwood,  
Dunstall in the dale,  
Tatenhill for a pretty girl,  
And Burton for good ale.

There are no illustrations, which is perhaps a pity, but I am not certain that they are really wanted after all.

J. C. W.



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